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TRANSACTIONS

OF

THE LEICESTERSHIRE

Architectural and Archæological

SOCIETY.

VOL. I.—PART I.

LEICESTER:
PRINTED BY CROSSLEY AND CLARKE.
1862.

Price Three Shillings and Sixpence.

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GENEALOGY COLLECTION

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INTERIOR OF LEICESTER CASTLE,

AS IT APPEARED IN 1821.

TRANSACTIONS

OF

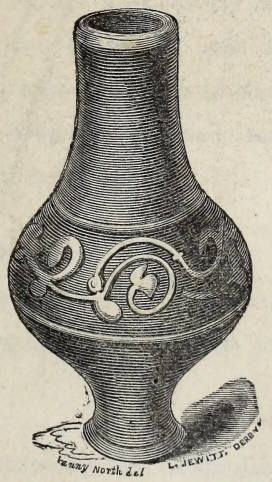
THE LEICESTERSHIRE

Architectural and Archæological

SOCIETY.

v. 1, pt. 1-4

VOL. I.—PART I.



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PREFACE.

A FEW words of explanation may be fitting as a Preface to the following pages.

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From the formation of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society, it has been the wish of very many of its members that the Papers read at its meetings should have more than a mere fugitive existence, and that some permanent record should be kept, and from time to time supplied to them, of the Archæological Objects exhibited, and the Architectural Plans or Drawings laid before them.

This it was impossible to do through the agency of the Annual Volume of the Associated Societies, in consequence of the small space necessarily apportioned to each contributing Society.

The plan now proposed by the Committee is to print, under the superintendence of a Publishing Committee, each year a part of a volume of the past Transactions of the Leicestershire Society, such part to contain about a hundred pages, until the whole of the past Transactions are placed in the hands of its members.

This is not in any way to interfere with the issue of the yearly volume of the Associated Societies, with whom, as heretofore, the Leicestershire Society will be in union.

It is hoped that this mode of procedure will meet with the approval and encouragement of the members, into whose hands the Publishing Committee have now the pleasure of placing the first section of Volume I.

Each writer is responsible for his own Paper.

The first Paper, by the Rev. J. A. Poole, was not delivered before the Leicestershire Society, that Society not being then formed, but on account of its local interest and value, it is here, by permission of the author, reprinted, as an appropriate prelude to the pages that follow.

T. NORTH,
Hon. Sec.

Leicester,
August, 1862.

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LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

On the Churches of Leicester. A Paper read at Leicester, at a Meeting of the Architectural Societies of the Diocese of Lincoln and of the Archdeaconry of Northampton, May 16, 1854. By George Ayliffe Poole, M.A., Vicar of Welford.*

If Leicester had been buried for the last 300 years, with all its histories and records, and had been just excavated under the auspices of your Architectural Society, some member would, doubtless, be requested to give such a history of its several churches as could be inferred from their remains; and with that happy tact in apportioning their burdens, which has enabled all similar societies to effect the greatest amount of work in the best possible manner, the choice would in this case assuredly fall on Mr. Sloman. And truly he had need be a cold-blooded animal if he were required to adhere rigidly to his *métier*. While Sir Visto was everywhere discovering and descanting on beauties and defects; while Professor Crayon was lightly touching a gable or a turret; while Mr. Canon Orderly was explaining the ritual use or symbolical meaning of this or that foot-pace, angle, or recess, he, poor man, must examine, measure, and describe with at least as minute attention; but without indulging in a speculation on the use, or a single comment on the beauty or deformity, of any fabric or feature. He is concerned solely with the indications of positive or relative antiquity, with the wrinkles, crow's-feet, and grey hairs of the subjects of his study; and after he has put every stone to the question, he will sometimes be obliged to confess that his scrutiny has ended only in conjecture, that his closest approximation to a date does but amount to a thereabouts. Yet notwith-

* It may be well to mention that the account of S. Mary's Church has been nearly re-written, but rather with a view to make it clearer than from any change in the opinions expressed.

standing the want of apparent interest in his work, and of exactness in his conclusions, this must be said on his behalf;—that he will have added, indirectly at least, to the charm of every other view that may be taken of the remains which he has studied, and that almost all other sources of information are oftener and more widely at fault, than he will probably be, in their assertions.

In the present paper I shall from choice treat the Churches of Leicester in the way which I have in imagination imposed on the unfortunate Mr. Sloman. As documents were beyond his reach, and criticism beyond his province, so, for myself, I profess to have looked at the Churches of Leicester only for *internal* evidence of their history; and where I go beyond a mere examination of the fabric with this view, either to seek additional light from records, or to pass judgment on any architectural feature, I do more than I bid you to expect, though not more than I trust you will excuse.

When four out of the five ancient churches have Norman remains, while none have any pretensions to an earlier date, the choice of one with which to commence our survey must be somewhat arbitrary. There is one, however, which is accidentally associated with a very remote antiquity. Immediately to the east of some singular Roman remains is the church of S. Nicholas. The Roman materials thus close at hand have been freely used in its construction, the window arches being turned with Roman brick. It is, perhaps, the rudeness resulting from this circumstance, which, of course, involves flat unmoulded soffits to the arches, that has given rise to a general notion that this church is of Saxon date, but the earliest existing remains are clearly Norman.* The original fabric, so far as we can now determine its form, consisted of a nave with north and south aisles, a chancel, with a tower between the nave and chancel, and transepts north and south. The witnesses of this remote period still remaining are the tower and the north side of the nave. It is only, however, on the exterior that it appears that the north wall is from bottom to top, except the clerestory, which is Perpendicular, the old Norman wall, with the arches and other openings filled up. The transept, together with the north aisle, have quite disappeared, and the whole of the rest of the church has been rebuilt, with some extensions of the original plan, early in the Geometrical period, perhaps about 1280.

* It ought, however, to be mentioned, that on the visit of the Societies to this church after the meeting, it appeared that what I have called a Norman clerestory, was so near to the crown of the arch, which is certainly Norman, that the two could hardly have occupied their present relative positions in the original church. It was therefore suggested that the clerestory windows may be Saxon, the arches below Norman. I should rather, in the absence of any other Saxon remains, and of any distinctive Saxon characters, suppose that the two dates thus associated both fall within the Norman period.

All Saints' retains a Norman entrance at the west end, the only witness of its right to be classed with the rest of the early churches in this town. At present it consists of nave and aisles, each with its compass roof, tower attached to the last bay eastward of the north aisle, and modern chancel. With the exception only of the Norman entrance and of the modern chancel, the whole of this church is Geometrical in style, and of about the same date with the second portion of S. Nicholas. The tower has in its outline some appearance of being earlier, but a string course in the basement is Geometrical. It is not at all improbable that the semicircular pilaster buttresses at the angles, which give the tower an earlier aspect, may have been formed of old materials from the Norman church. Precisely the same thing has happened at S. Peter's, Northampton, the tower of which was rebuilt long after the Norman period.

In the interior we may observe the good Perpendicular roof, coeval, or nearly so, with that of S. Mary's, to be referred hereafter to its proper date. We must also direct attention to the exceedingly good hexagonal pulpit; a perfect model for this portion of our church furniture, and one by the adoption of which, instead of some huge octagonal erection, done over, or overdone, which you will, with panels, tracery, cusps, and angels' heads, sufficient might be saved in many a church to supply an equally good font cover. Indeed, it may not be too much to say of this church, that it would afford more hints than all the rest of the churches in Leicester put together for a town church of moderate pretensions. I must be allowed to transgress my limits so far as to express a hope that it may speedily receive the restoration which its beauties, as well as its desolation, loudly call for, and that they may be executed under the advice of a real architect.

S. Martin's was originally a cross church, with narrow aisles to the nave, north and south transepts, probably without aisles, and chancel, the arrangement of which does not appear. Of the Norman fabric, only the tower with its south-west stair turret remains, and the upper part of the tower is much more recent, probably Decorated, as I judge from the outline, but there are no distinctive details remaining. The narrowness of the church, and especially of its aisles, was felt as a great inconvenience at the close of the 13th century, and the course taken to remedy it was both singular and extremely judicious. Instead of rebuilding both the original aisles of a greater width, an additional south aisle was added, the former aisle being retained, and the separation between the nave and the original aisle, and also that between the original and the additional aisle being made by tall slender pillars. The original aisle still remaining extremely narrow is admirably contrasted with this spacious addition to the church, and it is to

this arrangement that the interior owes its great superiority of effect, not only over the exterior of the same church, but also over the interior of S. Mary's, where a nearly equal enlargement was effected about the same time, in a less ingenious and satisfactory manner.

The chancel was rebuilt and an aisle was added to it late in the Perpendicular period. Of the transeptal arrangement there is a faint external indication on the north, but none on the south side. The clerestory of the nave and the western entrance are Perpendicular.

The north porch is of wood, and has been considerably enriched; at present it is in a wretched plight, but it ought to be restored, as it is perhaps the only existing wooden porch to a large town church in the kingdom.

I cannot leave this church without remarking that here, and at S. Nicholas, the very worst feature as respects internal effect and convenience, is the only one which has been retained of the Norman fabric. What can be more inconvenient and more obstructive than the low circular arches resting on heavy square piers which support the tower? If S. Mary's church had a similar low Norman tower, we cannot seriously regret its loss.

Nichols, in his account of S. Martin's church, has some singular extracts from the churchwardens' accounts, and other sources; I must, however, be very sparing in the use of such materials.

In 1545, the church, particularly the nave, was repaired. Six loads of freestone were brought from the Freers, at 18s. a load. The chief workmen had 7d., and the ordinary ones 4d., per day.

In 1547, 7½ cwt. of brass was sold at 19s. per cwt. It is needless to add that many a monument must have been stripped to satisfy this *æris sacra fames.*

In the great window of the north transept occurred one of those little pieces of satire which the monastic clergy were so fond of levelling at the predicant friars. A fox was represented preaching to geese, from the text, *Testis est mihi Deus quam cupiam vos omnes visceribus meis,* which you will recognise as a cunning adaptation of the words of S. Paul to the Philippian converts, with a significant change in the last word: God is my witness how I long after you all in *my bowels,* instead of in *the bowels of Christ.*

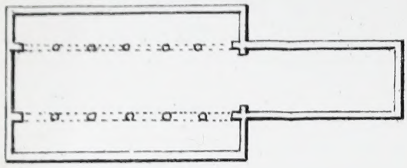
We have now arrived at the church of S. Mary de Castro, the only one in Leicester which affords what may be called an interesting architectural problem. Let us address ourselves to it with all courage.

Of its Norman fabric, S. Mary's retains large and important indications. We have the chancel and an arcade at the west

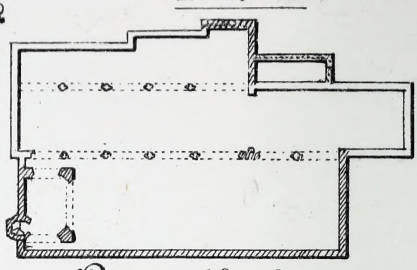
References -

Norman - Geometrical.
Early English Perpendicular
Modern

Church of St. Mary-de-Castro Leicester -



Norman Church -



Present Church -

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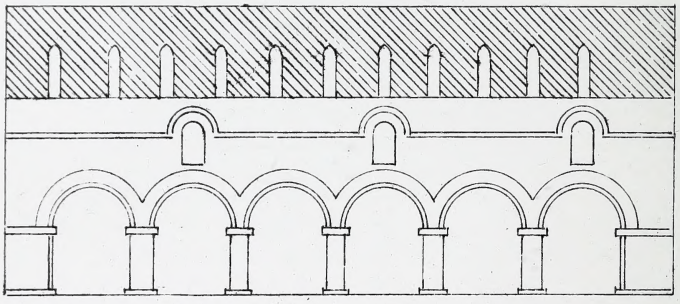
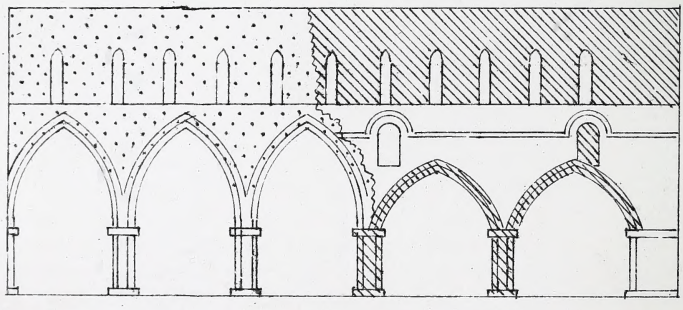
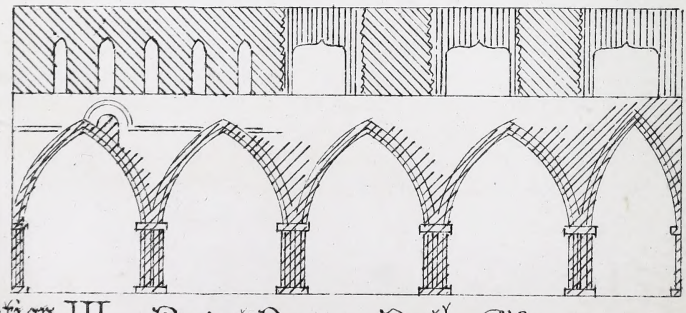


Elevation I. Norman Nave with Early English Clerestory



Elevation II. Present Nave : South Side.



Elevation III. Present Nave : North Side.

SCALE OF FEET.
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J. GODDARD, ARCH. DEL

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tolerably entire (so that we have the limits of the church east and west); and, besides these, certain traces in the north and south walls of the nave, to which I shall presently call your attention. The north door, moreover, is in part the ancient Norman fabric, but the whole of this part of the church has been so seriously tampered with at various times, that it is difficult to decide whether this door occupies its original position. It is necessary to observe, also, that there are clearly three Norman dates indicated by the existing remains. Careful examination and measurement lead me to believe that the Norman church in its first form was as follows:

The nave was of six bays, there were no transepts, the chancel was of considerable length, but whether apsidal in its termination, or whether with aisles to any portion of it, does not appear. Of a Norman tower no trace occurs; but the changes in late Norman times were so great, that there may have been a central tower, of which every vestige was already swept away before the present tower and spire were erected.*

I have already observed that there are clearly three Norman dates before us. Of these the nave is the most ancient, and it is from this mainly that I have reconstructed the original church, the date of which is no doubt correctly given as 1107. The present chancel is of much greater pretensions than the nave can ever have been in Norman times. It contains portions of two distinct works, altogether different in character from the nave, and singularly incongruous, not in style (for in this they are nearly identical), but in their relative proportions. To account for this, we must suppose that late in the Norman era the rebuilding of the chancel was commenced, on a scale which indicates an intention to enlarge the whole church; but that before the nave was touched, and even before the chancel was finished, the work was interrupted, and that by some means which forbad its immediate completion on the larger scale so lately adopted.

In accordance with this hypothesis, we find the following incidents in the history of the town. In 1173, that is, about the time, when, I presume, that the new and enlarged Norman chancel might have approached completion, all the churches of Leicester were destroyed, together with the castle and a great portion of the town, by Richard de Lucy, High Justiciary of Henry II., in revenge for the part which the Earl of Leicester had taken against the crown. So utter was the destruction of Leicester, that the

* In the accompanying ground plans, the church is represented first as it probably existed at the conclusion of the Norman period, and secondly in its present form. It will be observed that the changes are not merely in the addition of aisles and chapels, but in the number also and position of the pillars, which, moreover, are not uniform on the two sides of the nave. The great peculiarities of the present plan are the width of the south aisle and the position of the tower.

inhabitants were obliged to take refuge at S. Albans, at Bury S. Edmund's, and other towns. But there is no probability that the clergy were utterly annihilated or driven away; some service they must have had, and so the chancel was carried on after some little interval, though with less heart and spirit. But here they stopped, any enlargement or any effective repairs of the half-demolished church being abandoned for the present. We have now, therefore, a Norman church, the chancel of which still remains patched and disjointed, as I have just supposed, but of which the nave awaited its restoration under better auspices.

This original nave we have already reconstructed in its plan. We must now enquire what was its elevation. Fortunately, sufficient indications remain for us to do this with tolerable assurance.*

Standing at the west end of the nave, and looking at the south arcade, we have indeed not a single Norman arch, but we have a Norman clerestory, under which the arches must have been, and which gives the height of the original wall. Measuring from the western abutment to the extreme east of the nave, we have space for three clerestory windows, and for six arches beneath them. The north was, of course, uniform with the south arcade, and portions of that also, though not so considerable, remain.

We may fairly presume, that by the year 1200 the abbey had so far recovered from its desolation as to go on with the enlarging of their church; but now a new style had been introduced, and in that style we shall find considerable changes in the nave, all tending to increased space and height. First of all, a clerestory was added on both sides over the original clerestory, which was now reduced to the place, though not to the office, of a triforium. This gave not only a higher roof to the nave, but also a higher start, and, therefore, a wider span to the aisle roof; and this was doubtless taken advantage of to extend the south aisle considerably, though not to nearly its present extent. As this Early English south aisle has perished, as well as its predecessor, it might seem hazardous to assert its former existence, if its sedilia and piscina had not fortunately been preserved, though not *in situ;* they are thrown back into the south wall of the present aisle.

The wider aisle required, the loftier nave roof allowed, a series of taller and wider arches between the nave and aisles. The way in which these were supplied is abundantly manifest, and is represented in the accompanying Elevations II. and III., page 5. We must first follow the course pursued on the south side.

It will be seen that the arcade of six semicircular arches was

* In Elevation I., page 5, one side of the Norman nave is given entire; the clerestory is a simple addition, and merely requires to be removed to leave the Norman fabric entire.

converted into one of five pointed arches, of so much greater height that the points run up a good way into the original clerestory. The unceremonious way in which the clerestory was treated is most remarkable: you will see that it was under-built, cut away and blocked up, just as occasion served. It is impossible to commend the process, though it has perpetuated, to a marvellous extent, indications of the original character of the church. The old clerestory is here reduced to a portion of the wall out of which the great arcade is cut; but the place of this clerestory is supplied by the addition of an entirely new one, of lancet windows, adding ten feet to the height of the nave. Here then you have a wall the lower part of which is Norman, and the upper part Early English, supported by pillars of the latter date.

It may seem hazardous to describe the order of the work of alteration, but I am persuaded that it did not commence, as would seem most natural, with the lower portions, but that the clerestory was first added, the lower arcade being still untouched, so that the whole retained, for some little time at least, the form represented in Elevation I. It was not till after the enlargement of the aisle that I conceive the Early English piers and arches to have been inserted in place of the old ones. Had the work commenced from below, no portion of the Norman work would have remained, for it would not have been worth while to preserve the little fragments of a Norman clerestory, even though it could have been done without sacrifice of effect. Had it ever been other than an after thought, the work would have been made uniform at less cost of labour and ingenuity than it actually required. This is still more manifest in the treatment of the north arcade, to which we now proceed.

The north arcade, which is represented in its present state in Elevation III., is still more complicated in its dates than the south. On this side the Norman were not converted into pointed arches till a much later date, perhaps not till certain changes were made in the chapel of S. Anne, which now takes the place of a north transept; this may have been about 1280, and to this date belong other changes in the north aisle: but especially the pointed was now substituted for the Norman arcade, with still less respect than at the south, for the Norman clerestory. The Norman windows now almost entirely disappear, one little piece of one window only remaining of all the number, and Geometrical arches are carried up to within five feet of the top of the original clerestory. The Early English clerestory is not, however, affected by this change, so that we have Norman work between Early English above and Geometrical below.

The next changes in the plan and fabric are intimately connected with the ecclesiastical position of the church. It had

been originally, and still continued, a collegiate church; but it also became, at some ancient date, a parochial church; and whether or no from the first, yet certainly in course of time, the south aisle was used for the parish offices, while the original nave and chancel were retained by the abbey. To the necessity hence arising for a larger south aisle, we may refer the substitution of the present south aisle, of so very disproportionate dimensions, for the Early English aisle, which had itself supplanted the original Norman aisle. This aisle was erected some time about the close of the thirteenth century, together with the tower, on which still remains the weather mould, showing the place of its original roof.

It will be observed, that I wholly repudiate the general persuasion that this aisle was built by John of Gaunt *shortly before* 1400. But there are several changes in it, which may be referred to a period very *shortly after* 1400. At that date an important change took place in the ecclesiastical establishment. Hitherto, there had been a dean and seven canons, all instituted by the abbot, except one, who was called vicar of the parish, and who was instituted by the bishop. But in 1400, by the advice of Bishop Beaufort, and with the consent of the abbot, it was ordained that either the dean or the sacrist should be also the vicar of the parish. This, of course, brought again the conventual church (that is the nave and chancel) and the parish church (that is, the present south aisle) into closer relations; and about this time are several changes which tend to throw the two together, and to assimilate them in architectural character, as they had before been rendered as much as possible independent of each other. For the former purpose—that is, to facilitate community of services between them—the two arches out of the chancel into the aisle were opened; and as involving uniformity of character, as well as a more free communication, when roofs were needed both to the nave and to the south aisle, the high pitched roof of the aisle, the eaves of which would come down too low against the nave, was changed into a nearly flat roof, resting on a clerestory, built for that purpose over the original south wall of the aisle, and of course, in the Perpendicular style; and, at the same time, windows similar to these were inserted in part of the Early English clerestory of the nave, a roof of nearly identical character being supplied both to nave and aisle. Thus were the architectural features of the church of S. Mary de Castro, conventual and parochial in one, fitted for its double use, and assimilated with its ecclesiastical constitution.

The changes now made in the fabric are indicated in the several plans and elevations by the insertions shaded with perpendicular lines.* They are so visible in the church itself, that it is scarcely necessary to dwell farther on them.

* See especially the three windows thus distinguished in Elevation III.

It would be very easy to extend this notice of S. Mary's Church to ten times its present length, but I have said enough to indicate the heads of its architectural history, in which I do not include certain abominations, now happily obliterated, of the last generation. I should, however, affect brevity at the expense of justice if I did not call attention to the extensive, and, in many respects, very difficult restorations which have been lately effected,* and if I did not acknowledge the great and salutary efforts of a gentleman whose labours here, and their results, make one hesitate to perpetuate the term "Churchwarden's Gothic" as a note of reproach. If all Churchwardens were like Mr. Nevinson, one great part of the vocation of our architectural societies would be happily gone. I must add, too, as in private duty bound, that I am myself much indebted to the courtesies and help of the brothers of that name in Leicester, as on a former occasion to a third brother at Stamford, in the preparation of my paper.

We have been advancing throughout from churches of smaller to those of greater importance, architecturally considered, and we end with by far the finest church in the town: that of S. MARGARET. Of this church, Leland, in his "Itinerary," writes: "S. Margaret's is thereby the fairest paroch chirch of Leircester, wher ons was cathedrale chirche, and thereby the Bishop of Lincoln had a palace, whereof a little yet standeth. John Penny, first Abbate of Leircester, then Bishop of Bangor and Cairluel, is here buried in an alabaster tumbe. This Penny made the new bricke workes of Leircester Abbey, and much of the bricke walls."

Thus summarily is this church dismissed by Leland. We have, of course, something to add on the history of the fabric. The most ancient portion at present remaining is the last bay eastward of the nave, which is Semi-Norman or Transition, and probably about 1200 in date. As this, though but a small part, is evidently a part of a church of considerable pretensions, we may perhaps infer that, at that early date, S. Margaret's occupied about the same space and plan that it does now: if so, it consisted of nave and aisles, chancel and south porch: the vestry is, doubtless, an addition to the plan; and the tower, since it is engaged—that is, wholly enclosed—in the nave, does not alter the external limits of the church.

A great rebuilding took place early in the Geometrical period; so early, that the characteristic Lancet decoration of the nail head is retained in the south nave arcade, and in the south door: and to this rebuilding we assign the whole of the nave and aisles, except the bay of the nave next the chancel, before assigned to the Semi-Norman period. Thenceforward nothing that was done

* The part of these affecting the elevation of the south nave arcade is indicated by dots, in Elevation II.

has left its trace behind, until the fifteenth century, when the chancel, the south porch, and the tower, were erected. Of the building of the latter we have distinct mention in Bishop Alnwick's Register, which contains an episcopal commission to collect "Smoke farthing," or "Lincoln farthing," as it was otherwise called, an impost assigned to the use of the fabric of the cathedral, and to divert its application to the erection of a bell-tower to the church of S. Margaret, Leicester. The date of this commission is 1444. At the same time, also, the clerestory of the nave was rebuilt; and now S. Margaret's church had assumed the same proportions and character which it still retains in its fabric. I may add that, with the single exception of the tower being engaged, which is a loss both of interior space and of exterior effect, it would be difficult to conceive a better parish church, of large dimensions, for which it is as fair a model as All Saints' is for a smaller church.

At our visit to this church we shall not fail to observe the very good iron-work to the north door, and the well within the church, just west of the tower; a somewhat rare, but a very desirable addition to the church furniture.

I shall conclude this notice with a few extracts from the old churchwardens' accounts:

	£.	s.	d.
1565. To taking downe of the Roode-loft	0	0	8
For vii yardes of green say for my lorde's seat	0	9	4
1567. Layd forth for the Egle	4	19	3
1568. Recd. for the Chales	4	13	4
For a samon given to my Lord of Loughborow	0	13	8
Received for the red velvet covering	1	2	1
Recd. for the organ's casse	0	10	0
Recd. for the organ pypes	1	8	1
Recd. of Mr. Newzamm for the Egle	5	0	0

It appears that my lord's salmon cost the church more than was realized for the organ case.

We have now surveyed all the ancient churches still remaining in Leicester. You will at once perceive that I offer only a summary of my conclusions; a detailed enumeration of the grounds on which they rest would take a long time, and be very uninteresting. In the following table, I have reduced my conclusions to a yet narrower compass, barely stating the relative ages of the several churches and their parts:

Norman.—*S. Nicholas'*, tower, great portions of the N. wall of the nave, and one of the S. doors.
S. Martin's, tower.
S. Mary's, chancel, part of the nave.
All Saints', W. door.
Transition.—*S. Margaret's*, one bay, E. end of nave.
Early English.—*S. Mary's*, S. arcade, and N. and S. clerestory, nave.

GEOMETRICAL.—*All Saints'*, whole church.
S. Martin's, S. aisle, &c.
S. Mary's, S. aisle, &c.
S. Nicholas', S. aisle, &c.
S. Margaret's, nave.
DECORATED.—*S. Martin's*, belfry.
PERPENDICULAR.—*St. Margaret's*, chancel, porch, tower.
S. Martin's, chancel, W. door, &c.
S. Mary's, clerestory of S. aisle, &c.
LATE.—*S. Mary's* and *S. Martin's* spires.

There seem, then, to have been two great eras of ecclesiastical work in this town. In the Norman period, all the churches which we have now mentioned, except S. Margaret's, were built; and in the Geometrical period all of them suffered great changes, or received large additions. Of the styles of the other periods we have singularly few remains. Of the Semi-Norman, only one bay of S. Margaret's. Of the Early English, only a few vestiges in S. Mary's. Of the Decorated, perhaps none at all. Of the Perpendicular, large portions of S. Margaret's, and smaller parts of S. Martin's and S. Mary's. Of Post-Reformation work worth noting there is none, until we come to a very recent date, except the rebuilding of the spires of S. Martin and S. Mary, both of which have been struck by lightning; and both, especially the latter, very well repaired for the date.

Until I received the programme of our meeting, I had hoped that some one else would take up the subject more at large; but I must just add that, in your new Church now just finished, you have a worthy companion of any ancient church of like size and pretensions, and a goodly promise of the character of the churches that will be built, because built they must be, within the present half century, in the town of Leicester.

Leicestershire

Architectural and Archæological Society.

10*th January*, 1855.

A MEETING was held in the Town Library, Guild Hall, Leicester, for the purpose of establishing this society. The Venerable the Archdeacon of Leicester was in the chair.

He requested Mr. Ingram (the honorary secretary, *pro tempore*) to read the letters received from various persons who had signified their desire to become members.—The first was from the Bishop of the Diocese, who also expressed his willingness to promote the objects of the society. The second was from Earl Howe, regretting his inability to attend. In a previous letter his lordship stated "I shall be very happy to be enrolled a member, and I assure you I take a decided interest in your proceedings." Letters from the Rev. G. E. Gillett (mentioning that the Duke of Rutland would accept the office of Patron); from Sir F. G. Fowke (excusing his non-attendance on the ground of ill health, which confined him to his room); and from Mr. Geoffrey Palmer (apologizing for his inability to be present)—were also laid before the meeting.

This part of the business being concluded, the venerable Chairman called on

Mr. W. Perry-Herrick, who rose to move the first resolution. He expressed his gratification at being able to take part in the formation of a society which he felt certain would be attended with many beneficial effects, in conducing to the study of ecclesiastical architecture and general antiquities in the county. He stated his regret that he was so little acquainted with either Archæology or Architecture; but that he knew sufficient to enable him to appreciate the value of the labours of those who had leisure to devote themselves more particularly to these interesting pursuits, and he hoped, by associating with them at the meetings of the society, he might improve his knowledge, and receive much information and instruction. He said there was no doubt but that there were many archæological and architectural remains of deep historical interest in this county, still unexplored; some of

them mouldering fast into decay. It would be the object of the society to call attention to, and preserve from oblivion, these relics of the olden time—these memorials of the past; to preserve them from spoliation and neglect, and from the destruction to which they at present seemed doomed by the ruthless hand of Time, and by the equally ruthless hand of Man.—Mr. Herrick concluded by expressing a hope that the formation of the society would be unanimously agreed to, and that it would be placed on such a basis as would ensure its future success; and that, as soon as it became more generally known, the number of the members would greatly increase, and that it would be the means of affording much gratifying interest and instruction—not merely to its own members, but to the public at large, for many years to come.

The Rev. G. E. Gillett seconded the resolution; and in doing so he remarked that this society was no experiment, since they had the experience of other societies of like character in neighbouring counties to guide them in their proceedings. Some of these societies were in union with each other, publishing volumes of their papers jointly. He trusted that under the rules which would be laid before them (modified from those of other societies) the society would flourish, and all parties might be brought together for the preservation of the ancient remains in the county from desecration, and to promote an improvement in the style of architecture generally.

The resolution was put and carried unanimously.

The Chairman then read through a draft of the proposed Rules, and they were successively discussed and amended, or omitted.

The Hon. and Rev. John Sandilands then moved the adoption of the entire set, as follows:

RULES.

1. That the Society be called "The Architectural and Archæological Society" of the county of Leicester.

2. That the objects of the Society be to promote the study of ecclesiastical architecture, general antiquities, and the restoration of mutilated architectural remains within the county; and to furnish suggestions, so far as may be within its province, for improving the character of ecclesiastical edifices, and for preserving all ancient remains which the committee may consider of value and importance.

3. That the Society be composed of patrons, presidents, treasurer, and secretaries; and honorary and ordinary members.

4. That members of the Society be privileged to propose new members, either by letter or personally, to be elected at the committee meetings; and that honorary members be elected only at the nomination of the committee, at a general or special meeting.

5. That rural deans within the county of Leicester be *ex officio* members of the committee, on their signifying an intention to become members of the Society.

6. That each member shall pay an annual subscription of ten shillings, to be due on the first day of January in each year.

7 That the affairs of the Society be conducted by a committee, composed of

the patrons, presidents, rural deans, and not less than twenty ordinary members; of whom four, at least, shall have been members of the committee of the preceeding year.

8. That a general meeting of the members be held in the autumn of each year, previous to the public meetings; and that at such meeting the committee be elected, the accounts be passed, and the yearly report presented; and such new rules, or alterations in the rules, proposed and made, as may be thought necessary.

9. That the committee (of whom five shall be a quorum) have power to add to their number, and to elect from the Society the requisite number of secretaries.

10. That the members of the committee in any neighbourhood may associate other members of the Society with themselves, and form committees for local purposes, in communication with the central committee.

11. That the public meetings of the Society be holden in the autumn of each year, at such times and places as shall be appointed by the committee.

12. That the committee meet at the times and places which they may themselves appoint, and that their meetings be open to the members of the Society and their friends, after the despatch of routine business.

13. That the secretaries be empowered, on the requisition of five members of the committee, to call a special meeting of the Society.

14. That donations of architectural and antiquarian books, plans, &c., be received; that the committee be empowered to make purchases and procure casts and drawings, which shall be under the charge of the secretaries.

15. That when the committee shall consider any paper, which may have been read before the Society, worthy of being printed at its expense, they shall request the author to furnish a copy, and shall decide upon the number of copies to be printed, provided always that the number be sufficient to supply each member with one copy and the author with twenty-five copies. All other questions relating to publishing plans and papers, and illustrating them with engravings, shall be decided by the committee.

16. That the committee may every year publish, or join with other architectural and archæological societies in publishing, for circulation among the members, transactions to contain descriptions and papers connected with the objects of the Society.

17. That on application being made to any member of the committee, or to the committee collectively, for the advice of the Society, in the restoration of any church, a sub-committee be appointed (of which the incumbent or resident minister be one) to visit the church, and submit a report in writing to the general committee.

18. That all plans for the building, enlargement, or restoration of churches, schools, &c., sent for the inspection of the committee, be placed in the hands of one of the secretaries of the Society, at least fourteen days before the committee meeting, for the secretary to prepare a special report thereon.

19. That the committee have power at any meeting to make grants towards the objects of the Society, provided that if such grant exceed 30s. notice be given in the circular calling the meeting.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. A. Griffith then moved, and Sir Arthur Hazlerigg seconded the motion for the appointment of the following list of officers and committee :—

Patrons.

His Grace the Duke of Rutland, and the Bishop of the diocese.

Presidents.

Earl Howe, Sir F. G. Fowke, Baronet, Sir Arthur G. Hazlerigg, Baronet, the Venerable the Archdeacon of Leicester, and Mr. William Perry-Herrick.

Committee.

The Hon. and Rev. J. Sandilands, Mr. Geoffrey Palmer, the Rev. J. M. Gresley, Mr. E. B. Hartopp, Mr. Edward Dawson, the Rev. E. T. Vaughan, Mr. Geo. Norman, the Rev. R. Burnaby, Mr. T. T. Paget, Mr. Isaac Hodgson, Mr. Halford Adcock, the Rev. T. Jones, Dr. Shaw, Mr. Robert Brewin, jun., the Rev. S. G. Bellairs, Mr. George H. Nevinson, Mr. Thomas Nevinson, Mr. James Thompson, Mr. Arthur Griffith, and Mr. Richard Luck.

It was then moved by Mr. Herrick, and seconded by Mr. William Parsons, that the rules be printed and distributed among the members. Carried unanimously.

It was further resolved that Mr. Isaac Hodgson be requested to become the Treasurer; that the resolutions be advertised; and that the thanks of the meeting be given to the Archdeacon for his kindness in presiding on the occasion—a kindness which was the more esteemed, as it involved personal inconvenience to the venerable Archdeacon in coming so great a distance to attend the meeting.

The business of the general meeting being now at an end, the committee remained behind, and adopted the following resolution, in conformity with the rules:—

"That the Hon. and Rev. John Sandilands, the Rev. J. M. Gresley, and Mr. Thomas Ingram, be appointed the three secretaries of the society."

The following names of new members were here handed in: Hon. and Rev. A. G. Campbell, Mr. R. W. Wood, Mr. Robert H. J. Heygate, Mr. Geo. C. Bellairs, Narborough, Rev. J. H. B. Green, Normanton, and Rev. M. Webster, Netherseal.

The committee then separated.

26*th February*, 1855.

A MEETING of the committee was held in the Town Library. The Rev. G. E. Gillett in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read, Mr. Ingram laid before the committee a letter from the Rev. Thomas James, of Theddingworth, corresponding secretary of the Northamptonshire Architectural Society, proposing that the Leicestershire Society should unite with the Northamptonshire, and others, in printing Architectural and Antiquarian Papers, and also inviting the members to take part in a meeting of several similar societies, to be held at Peterborough in May next, at the request of the Dean.

It was suggested that an Order of Business, for the guidance of the committee in its future meetings, should be agreed on;

and a plan was adopted, under which arrangements the meetings will commence at *eleven*, and at *twelve* the more *general business* will be entered upon. This will consist of the examination of any architectural plans for the erection of new churches or repair of old ones, which may be submitted to the committee; the introduction to their notice of any antiquarian remains falling to decay and requiring a protecting hand; the reading of papers on architectural or general antiquities; and the exhibition of relics of antiquarian interest. The members of the society and their friends will be admissible to the proceedings when the general business comes under notice, on which occasion it is hoped many subjects will be brought forward calculated to please and to instruct those present.

The Order of Business having been determined upon, the Chairman said it was now competent to any member of the committee to propose new members.

Mr. Sandilands and Mr. Gresley proposed, and Mr. Tertius Paget seconded, that the following names be added to the list of members:—The Right Hon. the Earl Ferrers, Sir George Howland Beaumont, Bart., Rev. Mr. Gamlen, Mr. William Adcock, Mr. Edward Bright, Mr. E. H. M. Clarke, Mr. Claude Fernely, Mr. T. Hickson, Mr. Joseph Hickson, Mr. Winter Johnson, Mr. John Keal, Mr. George Marriott, Mr. Frederick J. Oldham, Mr. Warren Sharman, Mr. William Thorpe Tuxford, and Mr. Thomas Newton Wing,—the latter thirteen all of Melton.

On the proposition of Mr. George H. Nevinson, seconded by the Rev. S. G. Bellairs, it was resolved that the Rev. J. E. Denton, Mr. E. H. M. Clarke, Mr. Edward Fisher, jun., Mr. Gamlen, and Mr. Ingram (whose name had before been inadvertently omitted), be added to the committee.

The next part of the business was financial—the members of the committee paying their yearly subscriptions, which will in future be due (in advance) on the 1st of January every year.

It was then moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Thomas Nevinson, and unanimously carried, "That the members of the committee be requested to collect the subscriptions in their respective neighbourhoods."

The Rev. T. James's letter was next brought under consideration, and its proposals (above mentioned) agreed to; the secretaries being requested to communicate with Mr. James to that effect.

Mr. Thomas Nevinson then offered some observations on the propriety of finding a place of deposit for the objects of antiquity, drawings, books, &c., which might be presented to the society. He considered the purposes of the society would be thereby greatly promoted, and he had various casts, rubbings, and fragments of ancient art, which he should be happy to offer by way of a beginning.

A conversation arose on this subject, in the course of which it was observed that such a collection might prove serviceable to students in architecture. A member of the committee remarked that a collection of ancient stained glass, *unique* in character, and very interesting in design, was in the possession of a clergyman living not far from Leicester, and probably would be open for the examination of the members. It had, he believed, been offered once to a college in one of the universities, but he hoped it would not be removed from Leicester.

Eventually a sub-committee (consisting of the Secretaries, with Messrs. G. H. Nevinson, Thomas Nevinson, and J. Thompson) was appointed to enquire respecting a place suitable for such a collection, and to report thereon at a future meeting.

Mr. Thompson then brought under notice the contemplated destruction of the old school-house at Billesdon, Leicestershire. He stated that according to Nichols' History of the county,* the celebrated George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, and George Fox, the originator of the "Society of Friends," were instructed under that foundation. The present building, though not of earlier date than the middle of the seventeenth century, was an example of the style of institutions then prevailing, and was probably worthy of preservation.—It was agreed that enquiry should be made respecting it previous to the next meeting.

The Committee Meetings for the year were then fixed for the last Mondays in February, April, June, August, October, and December. These of course do not interfere with the General Meeting of the Society in the Autumn.

30*th April*, 1855.

A MEETING was held in the Town Library. The Rev. S. G. Bellairs in the chair.

The minutes of the preceding meeting having been read, the subject of the joint meeting at Peterborough of the Architectural Societies of Northamptonshire, Lincolnshire, Bedfordshire, and Leicestershire was discussed. The first day of meeting is fixed for Wednesday, May 23rd, when papers will be read upon the Cathedral, by Rev. G. A. Poole, and upon the West front of it, by Rev. O. Davys. On the next day, excursions will be made to the Abbeys of Croyland and Thorney. Particulars of the intended proceedings will be sent to every member of each of the Societies; and upon their informing the secretaries of their intention to be present, arrangements will be made for their reception by a local committee at Peterborough.

A Letter from Lord John Manners was read in which his Lord-

* Gartree Hundred, p. 435.

ship notified his desire to become a member of the Leicestershire Society.

The report of the sub-committee, appointed to enquire respecting a suitable room to be used as a library and museum for the Society, was received. Several very eligible rooms were mentioned, but it was deemed advisable not to engage one immediately.

The Rev. J. L. Petit, the Rev. Canon Vavasour, rural-dean, and Mr. Marshall, where admitted members of the Society. The Rev. R. Stephens was added to the committee.

The Rev. J. Denton mentioned that it was in contemplation to rebuild the chapel of Blackfordby, (a hamlet in the parish of Ashby-de-la-Zouch,) now in a lamentable state of dilapidation, and totally incapable of being repaired. It is also much too small for the present number of inhabitants, the population (principally consisting of families engaged in the neighbouring collieries and potteries) having increased to between five and six hundred; for one-sixth part only of whom there is sufficient church accommodation. Mr. Denton was requested to lay the plans, which are being prepared by J. P. St. Aubyn, Esq., before the committee at their next meeting.

Mr. T. Nevinson exhibited several tokens such as were used for counters in the middle ages, recently found near St. Mary's church, Leicester. Also, from the same locality, a penny of Henry the Third's first coinage, a half-groat of Henry the Sixth's, minted at York, and a few others, together with a noble of one of the Henries, found in an old wall at Oadby, Leicestershire. Several specimens of ornamented bricks from Leicester Abbey garden were shewn by the same gentleman. They were supposed to have been used to form borders for flower-beds, and are well worthy of being again manufactured for that purpose.

Mr. J. Thompson read the following remarks upon an ancient spur found at Battle-Flat, near Bardon-Hill, and upon two matrices of seals, one with the arms of Paget, and the other (of silver) bearing a coat of arms and crests:—

MEMOIR ON AN ANCIENT SPUR AND SEALS.

I BEG to lay before the committee for examination three relics of antiquity well deserving notice. One of these is an ancient spur, found many years ago on the ground known as "Battle Flat," near Hugglescote, in this county. As the site is one concerning which we have little, if any, information, the relic might be supposed to throw light on the origin of the name by which the spot is known. The spur is small, and seems to have been intended for a lady or a youth. It has been washed with silver. The ornamentation consists in the repetition of a grotesque face—whether that of man or of one of the lower animals is not evident. The

shape of the spur is not that of the Norman period, before the rowel was introduced, nor is it that of the fifteenth century, when the rowel was affixed to a long spike. It must, therefore, either be in the fashion prevalent in the centuries following the Norman period, and before the era of the Wars of the Roses—that is, the fashion of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries—or it must be a spur of the workmanship of the sixteenth or subsequent centuries.

Had the battle which took place here, and from the occurrence of which the site took its name, been one of a date historically so recent as the seventeenth century, I think we should have known more relating to it; and if the conflict was one of an earlier period, antecedent to the fifteenth century, it is remarkable that so little is known on the subject, and that, in fact, it is left to tradition alone to tell its scant story in the name of the field. The question what battle took place on this site is one meriting the attention of local antiquaries.

The other relic I have to exhibit is an ancient seal. The shield delineated on it is that of the Paget family, seated in this county (as appears by an ancient record which accidentally fell into my possession some years ago) as early as the reign of Henry the Sixth—there being then two freeholders, John and Thomas Paget, resident at Ibstock. The arms are—sable, a cross engrailed, argent: in the dexter chief an escallop of the second. The coat seems to me of an earlier reign than that in which the College of Arms was established, being one of the feudal age. The cross speaks of the crusader, and the escallop of the pilgrim, too clearly to be mistaken. The seal itself seems to be about two centuries old. The handle in the shape of a lion rampant, holding an escocheon in its fore paws, was probably the ancient crest of the family.

A second seal is also exhibited. It is of silver and more ancient date than the last. Perhaps some member of the committee acquainted with heraldry can decipher the arms, of which I am ignorant.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley then read the following paper

ON ANCIENT SEALS WITH TWISTED RUSHES AND STRAWS.

WHICH HE ILLUSTRATED BY DRAWINGS.

THE charter with its seal which I submit to your inspection, is from the very extensive collection of ancient documents in the possession of Sir Thomas Gresley, Bart., at Nether Seile, in this county. It is dated at Colton, Staffordshire, on the Tuesday next after the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord, 21 Edward IV., (A.D. 1481). By this instrument, master William Gresley, rector of the church of Stoke, and Richard Gresley, gave and demised to John Gresley, knight, and Anne his wife, the manor of Colton

I. *William or Richard Gresley, 21. Edw. IV.*

II. *Andrew Sperlynge ?, 1433.*

III. *Thomas Halshey de la Wall, 1 Ric. III.*

IV. *S. du conseit du roi en Normandie*

V. *William Hayne, Chaplain, 17. Ric. II.*

VI. *Johanna, daughter of Nich. de Rahewell. 17. Edw. III.*

VII. *Upon a letter from James IV of Scotland to Henry VII, 1502.*

VIII. *Common or Chapter Seal of Grace-Dieu Priory, Leicestershire, 1240-1538.*

IX. *Privy Seal of Agnes de Gresley, the first Prioress, 1240-126⅔.*

J. GODDARD, ARCH. DEL. COWELL'S ANASTATIC PRESS, IPSWICH.

with its appurtenances, &c., which they (William and Richard) lately had of the gift and feoffment of the said John Gresley, knight, To have and to hold [the said manor, &c.] to the aforesaid John Gresley, knight, and Anne his wife, and to their heirs and assigns for ever, of the chief lords of that fee by the accustomed services. In testimony whereof they (William and Richard) affixed their seals. Witnesses, Richard Bagott of Blyffeld, esq., John Bagott his son, John Egerton, esq., John Cawarden of Mavesyn Rydware, esq., Richard Norman de la Bulde, Richard Wygan of Colton, and others.

The manor of Colton became part of the possessions of the Gresleys of Drakelowe, Derbyshire, by the marriage of Sir Nicholas Gresley, knight, with Thomazine, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Wastneis of Colton, temp. Edw. III. Their great grandson, the Sir John Gresley of this charter, married Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Stanley of Elford, Staffordshire. John Egerton, esq., the third witness, is probably the person of that name, of Wrynhill, (son of Hugh Egerton,) who married Alice, one of the daughters of Sir John Gresley.* John Cawarden, esq., the fourth witness, is the name of the husband of Katherine, Sir John's sister.† William Gresley, the rector, and Richard Gresley, I have not been able to attach with certainty to the family pedigree,‡ but in all probability they were brothers of Sir John, and held Colton in trust.

Their two seals, of red wax, were affixed to a single label: the lower one has been broken. That which remains (fig. 1) is of a peculiar character, and worthy of notice. It has a ring composed of three twisted rushes, encircling the impression, and embedded in the wax. In the Archæological Journal, January, 1851, p. 77, is an engraving of a very similar seal (fig. 2), and some account is there given of the practice of protecting seals by means of these rush rings, plaited paper, &c. The writer speaks only of their use as a protection to the impression. I will not dispute that such was one reason for using them, but I think that something more was intended. On the seal before us there probably never has been any impression worth protecting. Nothing can now be made of it, so inefficiently has its protector performed its duty. Moreover, at that period the art of seal-engraving was about at its lowest ebb, and seals were of comparatively little importance. Had the bird and the word mercy on the seal represented in the Archæological Journal been obliterated, it would not have invalidated the letter of attorney to which it was attached.

Among the charters of the Vicars Choral of Lichfield Cathedral is a bond for ten marks, dated July 6th, 1 Richard III., (A.D. 1483,) to be paid to master Thomas Heywood, Dean of Lichfield,

* Gresley Cartulary, p. 57, 60. † Shaw's Staffordshire, vol. i., p. 180,
‡ Nichols' Leicestershire, West Gosc. Hund., p. 1009.*

by Thomas Halshey de la Wall, Staffordshire; the condition being that the said Thomas Halshey shall defend the said Dean "de quodam prato vocato Smalmedoo in dominio de Schenston in Comitatu Staffordie," &c. By the favour of the Rev. the Sub-chanter, I am able to produce a drawing of the seal attached to this bond (fig. 3. preceding page). It is of a very ordinary description, being an impression probably of a signet-ring of that period, engraved with the letter W crowned. Right across it, imbedded in the wax, upon which it had been laid before the seal was applied, is a single straw or rush. This, as you see, is positively injurious to the impression, instead of protective.

A drawing of another seal (fig. 4) copied from the engravings accompanying a valuable French work containing ancient Norman and Anglo-Norman charters,* exhibits a torse of twisted straws, not on the *outside* of the impression for protecting it, but imbedded in the wax where the inscription runs, and encroaching upon the field and its charges. This is described as "S. du conseil du roi en Normandie, entouré du torsade de paille, pour indiquer une saisie. (Tiré d'un sceau particulier.)"

The writer in the Archæological Journal ingeniously conjectures that these plaited rushes or straws may be so arranged in imitation of the interlaced squares and scroll-work which frequently ornament seals of the fifteenth century. (Fig. 5, 6.)

In connection with this subject I would notice some other charters among the evidences of the Vicars Choral of Lichfield. By one, dated the Tuesday after the Purification of the blessed Virgin Mary, 4 Edward III. (A.D. 1331), Richard, son of Richard Coylter, of Lichfield, gave to Robert de Evanene, priest, and to John de Aldebourgh, clerk, that place of land called Tuffynchecroft, in Lichfield, cum pert., which lay in Sondfordstrete. This, and five earlier charters relating to the same property, are tied together round the seal labels by a hair cord, and have also a rush wound three times round them, and tied.

By another charter, dated 15 Edward III., (A.D. 1341-2,) Nicholas de Teynturell, rector of the church of Lutterwych, gave to Nicholas de fferour of Lychfield, a cottage cum pert., in Robestrete. This charter and three more are tied together by a rush, wound round the vellum labels between the charters and their appendant seals

By another, 31 Edward III., (A.D. 1357-8,) Hugh de Goneston, of Lichfield, gave to Thomas de Admoneston, of Lichfield, and his heirs, one place of land, cum pert., in the field of Lichfield, called Oxebury. Also 34 Edward III., Simon de Blaby and Alexander de Creylefield, chaplains, gave to the said Thomas de A., a place of land described in the same words as in the preced-

* D'Anisy's Extraits des Chartes et autres Actes Normands ou Anglo-Normands qui se trouvent dans les Archives du Calvados, &c. 2 vols. Caen. 1834.

ing grant, with the addition that they had it of the gift of Hugh de Goneston. These two charters are tied together with a rush like the others I have mentioned.

As a concluding commentary upon these observations, I will read a paragraph from the Rev. R. C. Trench's Lectures "On the Study of Words," p. 8. He says,—"It is a signal evidence of the conservative powers of language, that we may oftentimes trace in speech the records of customs and states of society which have now passed so entirely away as to survive nowhere else but in these words alone. For example, a '*stipulation*,' or agreement, is so called, as many are strong to affirm, from '*stipula*,' a straw, because it once was usual, when one person passed over landed property to another, that a straw from the land, as a pledge or representative of the property transferred, should be handed from the seller to the buyer, which afterwards was commonly preserved with, or inserted in, the title deeds."

June 25*th*, 1855.

THE Rev. J. M. Gresley, in the chair.

The previous minutes having been read, great satisfaction was expressed at the proceedings of the Architectural Societies at their meeting held at Peterborough in May. In consequence of their visit to Croyland Abbey, an address had been drawn up to the Marquis of Exeter, the noble proprietor of the ruins of that monastery, requesting his lordship to take some steps for their preservation, several portions being in a very precarious condition. It was also stated that the marquis intended to remove that unique curiosity, Croyland bridge, which is at present disused and in no one's way. If this report be true, surely the inhabitants of the place will do what in them lies to rescue so interesting a relic from destruction.

The Rev. E. P. Cooper, vicar of Little Dalby, Capt. C. T. Freer, Messrs. T. C. Browne, W. Millican, and W. Latham, were elected members.

The chairman expressed his regret that the expected designs for the new church at Blackfordby were not ready to be laid before the committee. The fact was, that an unexpected objector to its erection had appeared in the person of the present possessor of the great tithes of the place, and (presumed) owner of the chancel, Sir Charles Abney Hastings, Bart. But his opposition would prove perfectly harmless, if the building committee, who had received such liberal promises of assistance, should only have moral courage sufficient to persist in their righteous intention. There is a considerable space of consecrated ground adjoining the old chapel-yard, recently given by T. Stokes, esq., upon which it

might be built, and the old chancel might be left as an interesting ruin by the side of it.

Mr. Thompson exhibited a denarius of Antoninus recently found at the Friars, Leicester. He stated that at Medbourne in this county, ancient coins are so frequently turned up in the fields by swine that they have got the name of "pig-money." Mr. Paget mentioned that a coin of Trajan had lately been found in a drain in a field of his at Humberstone.

Mr. Ingram produced a Recovery deed of the thirtieth year of Elizabeth, with a fine impression of one of her seals attached to it.

The chairman suggested that it was very desirable that at future meetings *each member* present should make it a rule to endeavour to exhibit at least *one* object of curiosity or antiquity, rather than for this part of the business of the day to be left optional and uncertain. He also (as secretary) requested that a short account *in writing* might be brought with each object exhibited, in order that the report of the meeting prepared by the secretaries might in this respect be accurate. These suggestions met with the approval of all present.

Mr. Thompson gave the following description of three narrow chambers, one above another, attached to the south side of the tower of the ruined church of Ulverscroft Priory:

CELLS AT ULVERSCROFT PRIORY.

It seems that the policy of the Roman Catholic Church, with regard to the encouragement of recluses and the adoption of reclusion, was in the earlier ages of its history more of a voluntary character than it has been in later times. Archdeacon Churton informs us* that in the ancient monasteries—such, for example, as those mentioned by patristic authorities—all was self-imposed suffering. Saint John Climacus (who, in the sixth century, was abbot of the monastery founded by the emperor Justinian at the foot of Mount Sinai) speaks of a religious establishment, which he had visited, wherein extreme hardships and great anguish of mind and body were endured by its inmates; the place inhabited by the votaries was called the "house of penitents." They were, however, all from choice inmates of the solitary chambers which they occupied. Ecclesiastical antiquaries show clearly (says the archdeacon) that St. Benedict never contemplated imprisonment for disobedient monks; the words of the rule, like the more ancient Eastern rules, prescribed expulsion. The change from the voluntary system of inclusion and expulsion for disobedience, to compulsory imprisonment, seems to have taken place subsequently to

* "On the Remains of Penitential Cells and Prisons connected with Monastic Houses," a paper in the volume of the Northamptonshire and other Architectural Societies for 1853.

the Norman Conquest, and about the period of the latest revival of monasteries. There were then three different degrees of monastic imprisonment—first, confinement within the walls of the monastery, without permission to go beyond the gate; secondly, confinement within a penitential cell; thirdly, confinement for the refractory within an actual prison.

I may here give a description of the remains of cells at Ulverscroft Priory. Every person who has examined the ruin will remember, that in the south-western angle of the tower is a turret staircase, entered at the foot by a low arched doorway. If the visitor ascends some ten or twelve feet, he will find a doorway opening out of the staircase into an aperture on the south side of the tower. On inspecting this, he will observe that the aperture is about three feet wide, and as long as the side of the tower itself—perhaps twelve or fourteen feet. The outer wall, parallel with the wall of the tower, has decayed and fallen away from the upper part, leaving the remainder only a few feet above ground, but sufficient to show the existence of the original construction. To return to the doorway opening out of the turret staircase; if the visitor look before him, he will observe the inside of a loophole, sometimes called a squint. This was evidently intended to allow the inmate of this narrow chamber an opportunity of witnessing the performance of religious worship at the opposite or eastern end of the priory church. Immediately on the left hand of the entrance doorway of this cell is a square opening, piercing quite through the southern wall of the tower into the vacant space below the belfry. For what purpose this was intended, unless for the conveyance of food to the recluse, I cannot say. Immediately below the threshold of the doorway will be seen projecting stones, corresponding to similar fragments at the opposite end of the cell, on which the flooring no doubt originally rested. When the flooring was in existence, the lowest cell must have been in an entirely dark condition, as there are no appearances of openings of any kind in any one of its sides; and it may be inferred that the inmates of this dismal dungeon must have been lowered into it from the middle chamber just described.

The upper story—namely, that above the cell entered from the turret staircase—seems to have occupied, in regard to the extent of its provision for immurement, a position intermediate between what may be called the dark cell on the ground floor, and the second chamber. The uppermost cell has also a "squint," which permitted its occupant to see the altar; but it had no other opening. It would appear that the tenant of this place must have ascended by a wooden ladder placed in the middle chamber; in fact, it was through this only that access was gained either to the highest or lowest cell.

I have little doubt that the three places in Ulverscroft tower

afforded the means by which the devotees of a past age were enabled or were compelled to become recluses. In the highest, the enthusiast, wrought up to an exalted pitch of fervour, may have consented to self-immurement until death came with his merciful hand to release the victim of superstition from the horrible punishment he must have endured.

Before entering his cell, the sacrament of extreme unction was administered to the anchorite, and the prayer of commendation for his soul was offered, lest, being prevented by death, he should stand in need of those rites of the church. Part of the funeral service was also performed. No entrance was left by which admission into the cell could be obtained after the anchorite was once enclosed; and the bishop who presided at the ceremony sealed the door by which entrance was obtained to this worse than sepulchre*—this grave of the living and mockery of the dead.

My idea of the uppermost chamber is that it was a cell for a recluse who adopted this mode of terminating his own existence.

The intermediate chamber seems to have been more fitted for a person who consented to a temporary reclusion from religious motives, or who may have been imprisoned for a brief space, not exceeding a fortnight; probably for slight violations of monastic discipline.

But what shall be said of the lowest of these once melancholy retreats? We *do* find examples or precedents for the imprisonment in an entirely dark dungeon of refractory monks. The place was known as the "*vade in pace*." The inventor of it (says the archdeacon, on the authority of Peter of Cluny) was one Matthew of Albano, who, finding one bad monk, who could in no other way be reformed, caused a dark cavern to be constructed underground, and shut him therein. Some suppose that it was a place which only admitted light through a grated door above, through which the prisoner descended by a ladder—the same kind of place as that which the chamber we are describing must have been originally.

It was made a subject of complaint about the year 1350 by Stephen, archbishop of Toulouse, that there were certain monks in his province guilty of horrible cruelty towards their brethren who were accused of great sins, casting them into a perpetual prison, dark and gloomy. The king, with the consent of the parliament of Languedoc, at once made an ordinance to mitigate this cruelty. Archdeacon Churton expresses a hope that neither the literal nor the more figurative mode of burying alive was ever practised in this country. I think if he were to visit Ulverscroft Priory, and examine attentively the lowest cell of the three here under notice, he would come to the conclusion that it once formed the grave of

* Ibid.

some living offender against a church which had become equally superstitious and remorseless.

The Chairman, the Rev. J. M. Gresley, read a Paper upon Blackfordby, Leicestershire, its Ecclesiastical History and its Chapel, with extracts from one of the registers, and some account of the Butt-House and of the Joyce family. His description of this picturesque little chapel was illustrated by a series of drawings in water-colour and pencil, by Miss Vavasour and Mrs. Gresley. An abstract of this Paper (with additions) is here given.

BLACKFORDBY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

Next to the fact of there being a priest there at the time of William the Conqueror's Survey, in 1081, the earliest mention I find of the church of Ashby de la Zouch is the gift of it to the abbey of Lilleshull in Shropshire.

That abbey of Canons Regular of St. Augustine was founded about 1145, by Richard de Belmeis, the last dean of the collegiate church of St. Alcmund in Shrewsbury. He was brother to Philip de Belmeis, lord of the manor of Ashby, who gave to these canons, then just come from Dorchester, "ad fundandam ecclesiam," (inter alia) "the church of St. Elene of Aessevi, with the church of Blacfordbi, to which sixty acres are attached." This grant was subsequently confirmed by Alan la Zouch, husband of Adhelicia, daughter and heiress of Philip de Belmeis, whose charter mentions forty acres in Blackfordby, three virgates in Essebi, and a fourth outside the town.* There is land in Blackfordby still known as "The Abbey Lees."

The revenues from Ashby appear to have formed part of the abbat's income, and not to have gone to the common fund of the establishment. In the "Matriculus" of Hugh Wallys or de Welles, bishop of Lincoln, of all the churches in the archdeaconry of Leicester, A.D. 1220, (5 Hen. III.,) it is stated that "The patron of the church of Esseb' is the abbat of Lillishull, who has it of old for his own use. He has also the chapel of Blackfordby, which should be served three days in the week by the mother church. Roger, the vicar, was instituted by H. now of Lincoln."† When the general taxation of England and Wales was made by Pope Nicholas IV., about 1291, the church of Ashby was valued at £20. and the vicarage at £5. The abbat of Lilleshull then possessed *in temporalibus* in the deanery of Akeley £8. 15s. 10d.‡ In 1313,

* Nichols' Leicestershire, West Gosc. Hund. pp. 561, 562. Dugdale's Mon. Ang. vol. vi., p. 263. Eyton's Shropshire, vol. ii., pp. 204-211.

† Nichols' Leicestershire, vol. i., p. lviii.

‡ Taxat. Eccles. P. Nich. IV., pp. 64, 66, 73.

he held half a knight's fee in Blackfordby of Alan la Zouch, which in 1328 was valued at 40s.* In "Rotula Ecclesiarum intra Comitat' Leicestr' facta inter 1339 (13 Ed. III.) et 1349 (23 Ed. III.)"† occurs as follows,—

Loca.	*Procurat'.*	*Taxat'.*	*Denar' Scti Petri.*	
Asbey de la Zouch	viis. vid. ob. q.			Abbas de Lilleshull habet in prop. Usus.
Wodecote		xxx marc.	iiis.	
Blakefordby ..	Vicar: vii. marc: & dimid.			

In the "Valor Ecclesiasticus," (a report on an ecclesiastical survey made in pursuance of an Act of Parliament, 26 Henry VIII., for ascertaining the yearly value of the possessions of all the monasteries, churches, &c. in England and Wales,) a few particulars relative to Blackfordby are to be found.‡

The monastery of Lilleshull then possessed among their *temporalia*,—

	£.	s.	d.
Redd' assis' in Assheby de Lazuche et Blakeforby in com' Leic' per annum	viij	xiiij	—

Among their *spiritualia*,—

Firma decimarum ecclesie de Assheby de la Zuche in com' Leic' Lincoln' dioc' per annum	vj	—	—

Among the reprises are these items,—

Hospitali Sancti Jacobi apud Derby pro terris in Blakkorby.. ..	—	ij	—
Johanni Walson Sen^no^ de Assheby de Lazuche Blakforby et Frisley ..	—	xx	—
Willelmo Watson Ballivo de Assheby de Lazuche	—	xx	—

An annual pension paid by Lilleshull was,—

Curato de Blakforby extra ecclesiam de Assheby de Lazuche ..	—	lx	—

And among the annual procurations,—

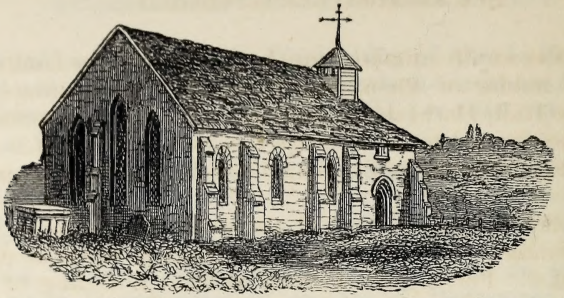
Archdiacono Leic' pro ecclesia de Assheby de la Zuche	—	xj	—

The abbat and ten canons surrendered their possessions to the king, October the 16th, 1538.

Not having access to such works as might give information respecting the disposal of the revenues of Lilleshull when Henry the Eighth laid sacrilegious hands upon the property of the monasteries and squandered them among his parasites, I can only say, that as George, first earl of Huntingdon, offered to assist the king in suppressing the righteous indignation of the people, exhibited in the "Pilgrimage of Grace," I think we may without breach of charity suppose that he availed himself of that circumstance to obtain a grant of the great tithes and advowson of the church of Ashby de la Zouch with Blackfordby in reward for his services.

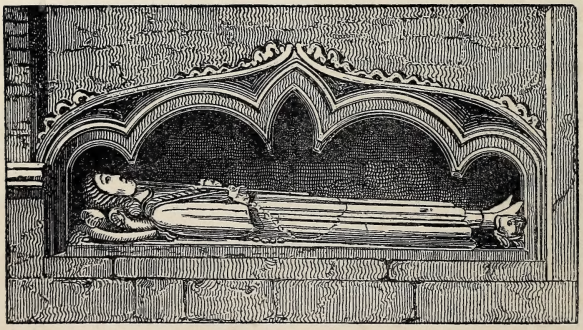
The great tithes of Blackfordby, as distinct from Ashby, have

* Nichols' Leicestershire, West Gosc. Hund., p. 633.
† Ibid. p. lxv., and a MS. copy penes J. M. G.
‡ Vol. iii., pp. 197, 198.



Blackfordby Chapel, 1857.

Front view.



Pilgrim's Monument, Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

since passed to an illegitimate branch of the Hastings family; and the present holder of them, Sir Charles Abney Hastings, Bart., of Willesley Hall, Derbyshire, is endeavouring by his (presumed) tenure of the chancel to throw every obstacle in his power in the the way of the rebuilding of the chapel which is so much required.*

Blackfordby Chapel is one of those old picturesque, unpretending buildings which are fast disappearing in these days of advancement.† For myself I freely confess a feeling of regret when their removal is thought desirable. There is a religious character about them which a new structure knows nothing of. Your new church has no associations with the past, and what shall we say of "the Church of the Future?" I was glad to find the old clerk of Blackfordby sympathizing with me. While acknowledging that "*something* wanted doing," the thought of the destruction of his old chapel brought tears into his eyes. He had been told that he was the only person who did not wish it away; I replied that there was at any rate one man, not quite so good perhaps as himself, who felt as he did. It stands upon lofty ground, commanding a prospect of the country from Cannock Chase to Charnwood Forest. It appears to have been built in the thirteenth century, and consists of a nave and chancel of stone (not externally distinguishable), south porch of brick, and bell-cot of wood. The length of the nave is twenty-nine feet, and of the chancel twenty-four feet, internally: the width of both is about equal,—fifteen feet. A single step marks the division of nave and chancel, and a remnant of the ancient chancel-screen may be there detected among the woodwork by its mouldings.

The east window is of three tall lancet lights, which with their splays occupy the entire width of the chancel, having a bold and handsome appearance. There is in the glass a very well painted head of a female with flowing hair, crowned, and with a nimbus, holding in her right hand a shaft with a cross upon the top of it; from which I conclude that this is a fragment of a picture of St. Margaret trampling upon the dragon. It has been conjectured that she was the patron Saint; but the village wake begins on the Sunday nearest the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul.‡

In the south wall of the chancel is the priest's doorway with corbelled dripstone, now blocked up. The windows on this side of the chapel have all been enlarged and squared. In the north wall of the chancel were two small lancet windows with plain

* This opposition to the rebuilding of the chapel was removed shortly after the reading of the above Paper. A new edifice has since been erected (1862).

† See the accompanying engraving of the north-east view of Blackfordby chapel, as it appeared in 1857.

‡ The wake is always on the Sunday before Saint James' Day, which is the 25th July. It is not therefore improbable that S. Margaret, whose day is July 20th, is the Patron Saint. J. M. G.

heads, and another remains further west. A fourth has been destroyed in order to admit more light to the pulpit. Opposite the south door is another doorway in the north wall, now disused. The west end of the nave is partitioned off for a vestry; above this is the singers' gallery, which they erected at their own expence. The west wall seems to have been rebuilt, and has only a plain square window. The side and east walls are supported by strong buttresses not coeval with the building: for so much do the walls lean outwards, that whereas fifteen feet is the width from wall to wall internally at the pavement, it is eighteen feet across at the ceiling. One of the buttresses on the south has the date 1684, and the letters $\frac{I}{M}$, perhaps for John Mugliston, a ruling power at Blackfordby about that time. There is a date also on one of the north buttresses.

The font is plain and circular, with a short circular shaft, and base of three steps. This is probably coeval with the chapel, if not earlier.

The communion table is sadly penned up with pews and rails. The reading-desk and pulpit have some carving about them, probably of the seventeenth century. They were brought hither from Ashby de la Zouch, when the mother church was re-pewed and re-pulpited about thirty years ago. The previous pulpit had an iron hourglass stand affixed to it, which reminds one of Gilby and Hildersham, the puritan preachers patronized by the earls of Huntingdon. This relic was thrown away as old rubbish when the pulpit from Ashby was introduced. The bench ends of the nave are very substantial and handsome: a bold moulding runs along them; the sides are sunk, and upon them is a kind of linen pattern in relief. The effect is extremely good. I shall be agreeably surprised if I find any so good in the proposed new church.

Nichols says, that "the roof, being open to the top, gives it the appearance of a barn rather than of a place of worship." This defect (as then imagined) has been since rectified by the construction of a neat flat plaster ceiling, which entirely conceals the timber, and cuts off the tops of the eastern lancets,—just fancy! I went through a trap door into this roof. Its tie-beams, king-posts, and struts, must have looked handsome. It was perhaps made in 1684: but there were so many bats squeaking and flying backwards and forwards, that I was glad to retreat as soon as I had made a note of the bells.

There are two of them. One has the date 1663, and the founder's mark. This mark is a square medallion (so to call it) bearing a Calvary cross, above the arms of which are a crescent and a star, and below them the letters G and O. I wish very much some one would tell me whose mark this is. I find it in several churches in the neighbourhood of Blackfordby.*

* These are the initials of George Oldfield, a founder of Nottingham. His bells are frequently met with in Leicestershire.—T. North.

The lesser bell has the date 1724, and "GOD SAVE HIS CHURCH." This, so early in the Georgian era, and just when "*God save the King*" was becoming our national anthem, may have been the doing of "Blofferby Will," whom the Pretender (so miscalled) nominated as a Bishop, had the rising of '15 been successful.*

There are only two monumental inscriptions visible in the chapel, but others may be concealed by the pewing. One of them, against the south wall of the chancel, is to the memory of Edward Newcomen, who died June 28th, 1722, aged 70, and Ann, his wife, who died April 10th, 1727, aged 63. Mary, their only surviving daughter, "erected this small piece of Marble." . . . . . .

The other inscription is on a gravestone in the pavement opposite the porch, and turned north and south, and records the decease of Mr. John Chamberlain, on 25th Oct., 1702, and of Katherine his wife, on 4th Feb., 1716. . . . . .

The family of Joyce have been the principal residents in Blackfordby for some centuries. In 1630, William and Ralph Joyce were freeholders here.

The stone altar-tomb just east of the chapel had . . . . . inscriptions recording the deaths of members of this family, and many headstones east of the chapel attest the decease of various others. . . . . .

Mr. John Joyce, dying unmarried in 1818, was succeeded in the family estate (about two hundred and fifty acres) by his sisters, on whose deaths it passed to their niece Mary, daughter and heiress of their brother Thomas Joyce of Leicester, by his wife Mary Lockwood. Mary Joyce married Mr. Thomas Stokes, of New Parks near Leicester, and has issue one daughter, Mary Joyce Stokes. Although not a member of the Church of England, this gentleman has shown his generous disposition by recently giving half an acre of land for additional burial-ground at Blackfordby, and by resigning to the vicar certain rights of pasturage, &c., in the old chapel-yard. This piece of ground will serve as an admirable site for the new church now proposed to be erected . . . . .

The estate, however, is still occupied by a member of the Boothorpe branch of the family, Mr. John Hall Joyce, son of William Joyce, by his wife Mary Hall, of Tonge, in the parish of Bredon-on-the-Hill. . . . . .

[Mr. Gresley gave many extracts from the parish register, and other information respecting the Joyce family.]

* The Rev. William Vincent, ejected as a non-juror from the rectory of Ibstock, Leicestershire, is said to have officiated afterwards at Blackfordby chapel, and from thence to have derived this soubriquet. (*See Nichols' Leicestershire, Sparkenhoe Hund. p.* 933.) "Blangherby, anciently called Blakeforby," in Burton's Leicestershire, p. 46, is an error, for "Blaugherby," as it is engraved in his map of the county. The village derives its name from the clear stream which here rises and flows down the "town-street."

The Butt House in the hamlet of Blackfordby, but now in the Chapelry of Woodville, is described by Nichols as "a neat commodious" residence, which about twenty years previously (i.e. about 1784,) had come by purchase to the Rev. Mr. Astley, sometime head-master of Repton School and rector of Hartshorne. It appears, however, that the purchase must have been somewhat earlier, as the parish register of Hartshorne records that "The Rev. William Asteley, Rector, was Buried Feb. 9th," 1769. Upon his death it devolved to his sister Katherine, second wife of John Cave Browne, esquire, of Stretton-en-le-Field, and only surviving child of Thomas Asteley, of Westminster, gentleman. It was then sold to Mr. Leach, who built new garden walls and made other improvements.*

The present building was probably erected about a hundred years ago, but it then supplanted an older house of the same name. In the accounts of the churchwardens of the parish of Hartshorne the following expense occurs in 1664,

Ite^ p^d when wee went of perambula[tion] the second time at Buthouse & Wildsmiths	00 - 10 - 00

And again in 1671,

Imprimis. spent att the Perambulation att the Butthouse ..	00 - 12 - 00

In this entry, "Butthouse" has been substituted for "Brickhouse," now a farmhouse on the opposite border of the parish near the old road leading from Repton to Ashby de la Zouch, but then probably an inn. Again in 1680,

	s.	*d.*
at Mr. Hattons goeing perambulacon	4	0
p^d more at Brickhouse	3	6

From these notices of refreshments paid for when they went the bounds of the parish, it appears that the Butt House about two centuries ago was an inn by the side of the highway leading from Ashby de la Zouch to Burton on Trent; and very likely it derived its name from the butts of Burton beer there sold, one probably being set up for the sign of the house.

Or perhaps it is equally probable that its name was derived from being in the neighbourhood of the village butts. The practice of archery was once enjoined by authority, and many a village field still retains the name of "The Butts." The good people of Hartshorne were not neglectful of this duty. In their constables' accounts for the year 1627 are these expenses,

Ite pd for proclamac^on concerninge Artillerye	xij*d.*
Ite pd for makinge our Buttes	ij*s.*

And in 1634,

	li.	*s.*	*d.*
Ite Spent at Melborne when wee went to show our bowes [and] arrowes	0	1	9

* Nichols' Leic., West Gosc. Hund., pp. 633, 1029.

After the practising they would adjourn to the Butt House to regale themselves.

The boundary of the parishes of Ashby de la Zouch and Hartshorne is close to the Butt House. Indeed I have been told by an ancient person of veracity that upon the 29th of May in the old "processioning" times round Ashby Woulds, before the enclosure of them in 1800,* he has been compelled, when a lad, to pass through the temple of the goddess Cloacina in the garden in order to keep up the rights of the parish.

The occupier of the Butt House when Nichols wrote was John Simmonds, Esq. In his diary he records the following locally important events,—

"1801. May 1st. Post boy between Burton & Ashby went by Butt house 1st time about ½ past 6 o'Clk, morn."

"10th. Sent a letter to E. & M. S.† by the post boy."

He died after a short illness in 1803, and his burial is thus recorded in the register of Lullington, Derbyshire,—"Novb. 24. Buried John Simmonds of the Butt House, Gen^t."

Robert William Devereux Shirley, late brother of the present earl Ferrers, was born at the Butt House, Dec. 14th, and baptized Dec. 16th, 1825.‡ His father Robert William Shirley, lord Tamworth, died here, Feb. 3rd, 1830.‖ . . . . . .

August 13th, 1855.

A MEETING of the Committee was held in the Town Library, to take into consideration the arrangements necessary to be made for the first autumnal meeting, which it was resolved should be held on Monday the 10th September next. It was suggested that a meeting for the transaction of business should take place on that day, at two o'clock, to be followed by an ordinary at six o'clock, and an evening meeting at eight o'clock; and that the following day should be entirely devoted to an excursion on Charnwood

* At that time the Butt House stood almost alone. Since then a populous village of potters has sprung up in its neighbourhood by the name of "Wooden-Box," or more commonly "The Box," derived, as is well known, from a hut set up there for a person to sit in to receive the toll at the turnpike. The *Historical Collector* may add that this wooden box was originally a port wine butt from Drakelowe Hall. In 1845 the name of the place was changed from Wooden-Box to Woodville, and formed into "The consolidated Chapelry of Woodville" by an order of the Queen in Council, June 17th, 1847.—*See The London Gazette of July 6th*, 1847.

† His daughters; Eliza, afterwards wife of Mr. Edward Mammatt of Ashby de la Zouch, and Maria, afterwards wife of Mr. John Pountney of Wolverhampton.

‡ Ashby de la Zouch register.

‖ This paper upon Blackfordby was afterwards contributed by the Rev. J. M. Gresley to the Midland Counties Historical Collector, where it is considerably enlarged, and to which publication we must refer any reader wishing for more information upon the subject.

Forest. The route proposed to be followed was—leaving Leicester at nine, to proceed to Kirby Muxloe, there to examine the castle; thence to Ratby, to visit the Bury Camp, a Roman remain of very great extent; thence to pass on by Groby castle and Groby pool, with a view of seeing the remains at Bradgate; thence to drive to Ulverscroft Priory; thence to Whitwick, in order to inspect its church and see its interesting monument of an ancient knight of the Talbot family; thence to return to Woodhouse, Swithland, Rothley, and from the latter place to Leicester. This route had been planned in deference to the wishes of various members of the Lincolnshire Society, who, at the last associated meetings at Peterborough, expressed a strong desire to have an excursion on Charnwood Forest, on paying Leicester another visit.

August 27th, 1855.

COMMITTEE Meeting. Mr. G. H. Nevinson, in the chair.

The secretaries reported that letters had been received permitting the society to visit Bradgate, Ulverscroft, and Rothley Temple, on their excursion day, September the 11th; and that the architects of Leicester had been informed of the wish of the committee to receive from them drawings and plans for exhibition at the annual meeting in the afternoon of the 10th, at the New Hall, Wellington Street, Leicester.

The Rev. Samuel Smith, incumbent of St. George's, Thringstone, was elected a member of the Society.

A sub-committee for making further arrangements for the annual meeting and excursion was appointed, consisting of Dr. Shaw, Messrs. T. T. Paget, J. Thompson, T. C. Browne, and the secretaries, with power to add others. The papers promised for the evening meeting are,—on Ulverscroft Abbey, by Mr. T. R. Potter; on Local Architectural Peculiarities, by the Rev. J. Denton; on Croyland Abbey, by the Rev. Dr. Stukeley; and a fourth, on the Early Heraldry of Leicestershire, by Mr. J. Thompson.

The chairman exhibited a small bronze figure, representing a man running, and supporting a cone upon his head with his right hand:

Three small copper Roman coins found in repairing the Fleet Ditch at the bottom of Holborn Hill; one of them bearing the head and name of LICINIUS, and on the reverse a fortress:

A plate or ticket of copper, about one-and-a-half inch square, found at very low water in the bed of the Thames, near the second arch of Waterloo Bridge, having on one side the inscription "*John Wheatley Citizen and Poultirer of London;*" and the other, J. W. himself smoking his pipe at his shop door.

Mr. Marshall exhibited a large engraving of the monumental brass of Alan Fleming in Newark church, 1361, from a drawing by Fowler. In the histories of Newark, Fleming is erroneously described as an ecclesiastic. Mr. Marshall deferred a more minute description of it until a future committee meeting. The paper prepared by Mr. Marshall is appended to the report of this meeting.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley exhibited a volume of original drawings by Dr. W. Stukeley, author of the Itinerarium Curiosum and other antiquarian works in the last century. They consist chiefly of pen-and-ink sketches, shaded with Indian ink. Among them is a sketch of Bow Bridge, Leicester, taken in 1722 ; and another of an arch over the Foss Way at Newark, long since destroyed. It was suggested that the former should be printed at the expense of this Society.

The committee appointed twelve o'clock, September the 10th, for their next meeting.

1400192

THE FLEMING BRASS.

[The following paper was intended to be read by the writer, Mr. E. Marshall, before the Committee of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society, at the above meeting, but time did not permit; it is therefore now laid before the members as being worthy of extended publicity.]

When I mentioned my intention of laying Fowler's engraving of the Fleming Brass, in Newark church, before this meeting for inspection, it was thought better that I should at the same time read a few remarks descriptive of it. I have therefore collected a few particulars (so far as is known) of the person represented in this engraving, and the monument itself, as well as a few remarks upon brasses in general, which I have taken the liberty of introducing into this paper, for all of which I confess myself indebted to various sources of information. Dickenson, in his History of Newark, published in 1805, at p. 323, says, "The early date of this inscription, the magnificence of the monument itself, and the peculiarity of the decorations, have made the person whom it commemorates the object of more than common curiosity of late years, since enquiries of this sort have become the subjects of antiquarian research. The first instance in which mention of his name is to be found, is as a witness to a deed, in conjunction with that of Thomas Adam, constable of the castle of Newark, by which one Thomas de Sybthorp conveyed a tenement in Newark. This instrument bears date 23rd, Edward the Third, 1350, and still remains among the archives of the mayor and aldermen. Others of the family appear to have lived at Newark, as their names frequently occur as wit-

nesses to deeds, deposited in the same place, at no distant period from that in which the subject of this enquiry lived. Thomas Fleming appears in that capacity in the 1st of Richard the Second, 1377; and Arnold, Ralph, and John, severally surnamed Fleming, to other deeds, between the last-mentioned period and the reign of Henry the Fifth. In this reign we find Richard Fleming consecrated Bishop of Lincoln, 1420; his brother being at the same time dean of the same church."

I find from another source of information, that Alan Fleming was the founder of one of the fourteen chantries which existed in Newark church previous to the Reformation, the foundation deed of which is given in Torre's manuscript, the Collectanea, at York, as follows: "On the 25th May, A.D. 1349, Alan Fleming, of Newark, founded in the chapel of Corpus Christi, within the church of Newark, a chantry for one secular chaplain, to celebrate masses for the souls of William de la Zouch, archbishop of York, of himself, the said Alan Fleming, and Alice his wife, and of others his friends; and for his support appointed five marks of silver to be yearly paid by the prior and convent of Shelford. The patronage, after the death of the said Alan, to be in the vicar of Newark and four faithful men in name of the parishioners thereof."

The Rev. J. F. Dimock, in a paper read by him at the Newark meeting of the Lincolnshire Architectural Society last month, said, "The endowment was increased by Fleming himself before his death, or by some benefactor afterwards; for in the account of this chantry, in the Valor Ecclesiasticus, besides the five marks from Shelford, the chaplain had another pension of one mark from Thurgarton priory, and was in receipt also of certain rents from tenements in Newark."

The brass, one of the finest remaining in the kingdom, was removed from its original position on the floor of the south transept in 1823, by the churchwardens for the time being, and fixed in an elevated position on the back of the reredos, in the lady chapel. The stone (a black marble slab, measuring 9 feet 10 inches by 6 feet 3 inches,) on which it was fixed, was also removed at the same time, and now covers a modern family vault in the nave of the church. During the late restoration of the church, the brass was fixed on the west wall of the south transept, over the place it originally occupied; its dimensions are 9 feet 3 inches by 5 feet 7 inches.

A particular description of this monumental brass, to accompany Fowler's engraving of it, was written in the year above-named, by the late E. J. Willson, esq., of Lincoln; and I think I cannot do better than give it in his own words. "Of the person commemorated by this curious monument, nothing can be ascertained from history. There was, indeed, a family named *Flamang*, *Le Fleming*, or *Flandrensis*, who possessed lands in Nottinghamshire in the

preceding century; but their pedigree does not descend to this *Alan*. Dr. Thoroton (*Antiquities of Nottinghamshire*, pp. 198, 413,) has printed the epitaph, but takes no particular notice of the deceased. Mr. Gough contented himself with a slight and erroneous description, in his vast work on 'Sepulchral Monuments' (vol. i. p. 185), and his account has passed current with two or three later writers. According to that account, *Alan Flemyng* was an ecclesiastic—a gross mistake for so experienced an antiquary as Mr. Gough to fall into, the whole costume of the figure being that of a layman—a merchant, or burgess. Some of the richest brasses of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries are found on the tombs of persons of that class. One of these, at Lynn, in Norfolk, bears so striking a resemblance to this at Newark, as to countenance a supposition of their coming from the hand of the same artist. The Lynn brass is very well represented in Mr. Gough's work: it contains three principal figures; but the architectural details, the canopies, smaller figures, &c., are designed in a similar style to the Newark brass. At St. Alban's, there is a brass on which the principal figure is clothed in the ancient pontifical vestments, with the name of 'Abbat Thomas' inscribed upon the verge; but, unfortunately, without any date. Many of the ornamental particulars on that brass very closely resemble those on the one at Newark; and being better preserved, our description will be assisted by reference to them.

"The portrait of *Alan Fleming* reposes within a gorgeous tabernacle of architectural design; various smaller figures are placed in niches at the sides, and upon the canopy; and a double border of tendrils and leaves encircles the whole composition, including the epitaph. Such is the outline of the design; but the elegant taste and minute care displayed in filling up every part with appropriate enrichment, are beyond the power of verbal description. The back ground to the principal figure is diapered with architectural tracery, filled up with an animal in every compartment. At the bottom a hunting match is exhibited in the centre; and, on one side, a mock tournament performed by animals; on the other, animals ludicrously dancing. Immediately over the head of the deceased was a small figure denoting the disembodied spirit, held in the bosom of its Divine Creator, who was represented in the likeness of an ancient man, as in the vision of the prophet Daniel. On each side, were angels offering incense, or playing upon musical instruments. In the other niches were saints, holding scrolls, inscribed with sentences of prayer, or instruments of their martyrdom. On each hand of the deceased are six of his friends —three men and three women, standing in pairs. The countenance of *Alan Fleming* appears young. He is placed in the pious attitude invariably observed in our old monuments, and holds in his uplifted hands a scroll inscribed with the pathetic prayer,

'*Miserere mei Domine Deus meus!*' His head rests upon a pillow, richly flowered, supported by two angels. Under his feet is a lion, in allusion to a passage in one of the Psalms. It is remarkable that there is no shield, nor armorial bearing of any sort; such distinctions being regarded as inappropriate to the peaceful followers of commerce. The inscription on the verge may be read thus: '*Hic jacet Alanus Fleming, qui obiit anno Domini Millessimo ccclxi° in die sancte Helene. Cujus anima per Dei misericordiam requiescat in pace. Amen. Credo quod Redemptor meus vivit, et in novissimo die de terra surrecturus sum et rursus circumdabor pelle mea et in carne mea videbo Deum, salvatorem meum, quem visurus sum ego ipse, et oculi mei conspecturi sunt, et non alius: reposita est hec spes mea in sinu meo.*' On three of the small compartments, inserted between the words of the inscription, appear what seems to be the engraver's personal device, or cipher. It would probably be in vain to enquire who this excellent artist could be. From the peculiar style of some of the architectural details I am inclined to think he was a native of Flanders or Germany: whoever he was, he has left a splendid proof of his own skill, as well as of the munificent encouragement of the arts in his days."

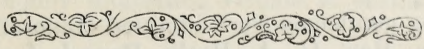
Mr. G. G. Scott, the architect, said (when inspecting the brass with the members of the Lincoln Society, on the 21st of last month) that the diapered background which it possessed, satisfied him that the great brasses at Lynn, at St. Alban's, and also at Lubeck and Stralsund, had all emanated from one and the same manufactory.

In the Rev. Charles Boutell's work on "Monumental Brasses," is an engraving of the head of a bishop or abbat, on a small portion of a Flemish brass, of very large design; it is now in private hands, at Ramsgate, and measures 28 inches by 23 inches; its date is assigned in the Oxford Manual to about 1353, by Mr. Boutell to 1375. "In the tabernacle work above the head of the deceased, his soul is represented as a small figure naked, but wearing a mitre, received in a sheet into the hands of the Heavenly Father. In the niches are figures of St. Peter and St. Paul, and two other saints." The above appears from the engraving to be in a very perfect state. This description helps to give a clearer explanation of the upper part of the Fleming brass. In front of the central figure, over the head of Alan Fleming, may be traced a sheet, held in exactly the same manner as by the figure on the fragment above referred to.

These Flemish brasses usually retain the appearance of a square figure with background, whilst our English brasses are commonly cut round to the figures represented. Though the effect of the latter is altogether less splendid, some advantage is gained in distinctness of outline.

It appears that brasses are found in far greater numbers in England, than in any other part of Europe. "The whole number remaining here is probably not less than four thousand. On the Continent, the specimens are far from numerous. In France, very few seem to have survived the Revolution. One of the fifteenth century is in Amiens cathedral. They are to be found in different parts of Germany. A very fine brass in the Cathedral church of Constance, to the memory of bishop Hallum, is rendered doubly interesting by the generally believed tradition that it was manufactured in England, affording a presumption that in the early part of the fifteenth century, our brass engravers were reported to be superior to those of the Rhenish cities; bishop Hallum was made cardinal in 1411, and died on the 4th of September, in the same year, being then ambassador from the English court to the council of Constance. There is one fine example at Seville, in Spain; also a few in Funchal cathedral, Madeira; and in Denmark there are known to have existed some of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Italy is entirely without them; but some incised slabs are to be found at Rome. Very few brasses are to be found in Wales; Beaumaris, Swansea, Ruthin, and Whitehead possess the best. One example only is at present known to exist in Scotland, namely, in Glasgow cathedral. Dublin cathedral contains two of the commencement of the sixteenth century, which are all that have hitherto been found in Ireland." And now, when the numerous works published and announced for publication on monumental brasses, bespeak the great interest excited on behalf of these beautiful remains of ancient art, it is to be hoped that the comparatively few left us will be cared for, and well looked after, by those to whose care are committed the equally beautiful buildings containing them; as, from various causes, they seem to be rapidly disappearing from amongst us. I saw at the Newark meeting, a piece of brass labelled "from Waltham Abbey," representing four or five small figures; and heard the gentleman who exhibited it say, that it was given him by a person who had several pieces in his possession from the same building.

It has been stated, on good authority, that during the late restoration of Boston church (which has been so well effected) brasses were lost or stolen from the church, thus proving that innovation is not the only evil to be feared in our modern church restorations. Let us hope, then, that every individual having a regard for objects of antiquity, and who has it in his power, will, by authority or example, do his best to preserve from threatened destruction, these unfortunate, but (in so many respects) valuable memorials of the past.



September 10th, 1855.

THE first General Meeting was held in the New Hall, Wellington Street, Leicester, the Rev. G. E. Gillett in the chair, who, after a few words of introduction to the business of the day, called upon Mr. Ingram, the secretary, to read the following Report:—

Your Committee, in submitting their Report, have barely to record the fact of the Society being formed and brought into existence, chiefly through the efforts of two or three individuals.

The Society consists of ninety-six members, and comprises some of the highest names in the county.

The Committee venture to express a hope that gentlemen residing in the Lutterworth and Market Harborough districts, becoming acquainted with the Society, may enroll themselves as members.

The Committee have to state that the Society accepted the invitation of the Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire Societies, to hold a joint meeting at Peterborough in June last; although it is to be regretted that the members of this Society did not avail themselves of it to the extent that might have been expected.

A proposal having been made by the Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire Society, to join them in the expense of printing and publishing reports, your Committee thought it desirable to accept it. Every member of each Society will thus be furnished with a copy of their joint Report, which it is hoped will prove a permanent and interesting memorial of the United Societies' operations.

In conclusion, they trust the exhibition of designs, drawings, antiques, and other objects of interest, at the New Hall, this day, together with the papers to be read at the public meeting there, may be the means of producing an agreeable re-union, and of inducing many other persons to join the Society.

The Rev. R. Burnaby moved, and the Rev. R. Stephens seconded the adoption of the Report, which was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Ingram then read letters from Earl Howe, Lord John Manners, W. Perry-Herrick, Esq., and Sir F. G. Fowke, Bart., regretting their inability to be present, and also

Another letter from the Rev. W. F. Kelke, of the Buckinghamshire Architectural Society, (accompanying a donation of that Society's publications,) proposing to unite with the Leicestershire Society. It was agreed that the proposal be referred to the Committee.

The following gentlemen were admitted Honorary Members:— Rev. T. James, Rev. G. A. Poole, Rev. J. L. Petit, Sir H.

Dryden, Bart., Messrs. G. G. Scott, M. H. Bloxam, and T. R. Potter.

The following gentlemen were added to the list of Presidents.—The Rt. Hon. Earl Ferrers, the Rt. Hon. Lord J. Manners, Sir G. H. Beaumont, Bart., and E. B. Hartopp, Esq.

An alteration in Rule VII., as suggested by the Committee, was proposed and carried. The Rule as altered stands as follows:—

"That the affairs of the Society be conducted by a Committee, composed of the Patrons, Presidents, Rural Deans, and not less than twenty ordinary members, of whom four, at least, shall have been members of the Committee of the preceding year."

The following gentlemen were elected as the Committee for the next year, namely:—The Revs. R. Burnaby, F. G. Burnaby, R.D., S. G. Bellairs, John Denton, G. E. Gillett, R.D., J. M. Gresley, T. Jones, the Hon. and Rev. J. Sandilands, Revs. S. Smith, R. Stephens, E. T. Vaughan, M. Vavasour, R.D., M. Webster. Messrs. Halford Adcock, Robert Brewin, Jun., G. C. Bellairs, E. H. M. Clarke, Edward Dawson, Edward Fisher, Jun., Henry Goddard, Arthur Griffiths, Isaac Hodgson, Thomas Ingram, William Jackson, Richard Luck, W. Millican, G. H. Nevinson, Thomas Nevinson, George Norman, Geoffrey Palmer, T. T. Paget, William Parsons, Dr. Shaw, Messrs. James Thompson, Thomas Ward, T. N. Wing, and T. L. Walker.

THE TEMPORARY MUSEUM.

Numerous drawings and objects of antiquarian and ecclesiological interest were exhibited in the Hall, and were inspected by a considerable number of persons, the Hall being open for their exhibition between four and six o'clock. Mr. Broadbent, who was one of the largest contributors, had an alabaster capital, unfinished, intended for E. B. Hartopp, Esq., of Dalby Hall, a carved oak column, likewise unfinished, a numerous and interesting collection of drawings and engravings, and some fine specimens of stained glass.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley contributed an ancient pulpit hour-glass stand from Congerstone, a chalice, some ancient coins from Tutbury, in Staffordshire, an illuminated Latin Bible of the fourteenth century, and autographs of Sir Edwin Landseer and Oliver Cromwell. The latter was in remarkably good preservation, and was an order to pay £1038. 9s. for fourteen days' pay of five troops of horse of Sir A. Haselrigge's regiment—the date December 31, 1650. Mr. Gresley sent also some drawings by the Anastatic process, and a highly interesting volume of sketches and manuscript notes by Dr. Stukely.

In the same case with the above were some cannon balls from

the French trenches before Sebastopol (rather of modern than antique interest), a curious oriental work, and an ancient wedding ring, exhibited by the Rev. R. Burnaby, found at Cambridge in 1820, and bearing the inscription "Love and Obey."

John Marriott, Esq., of Beeby, had a very curious Anglo-Saxon necklace and fibula, which attracted much notice. They were dug up, it was stated, in a field at Beeby, about two and a-half feet below the surface.

Mr. E. Marshall contributed several drawings, and an engraving of a fine monumental brass in Newark Church to the memory of Alan Fleming, dated 1361, and a cannon ball found in the roof of the north aisle of the same church in 1801.

Mr. Goddard sent some curious Roman ampullæ found in the grounds of Leicester Abbey and in Wharf Street, with some coins and fibulæ, as well as some tracery from Wyckliffe's screen in Lutterworth Church, and a cast from a panel in the Old Blue Boar, Leicester.

Messrs. Kelham and Millican exhibited a series of twelve photographic views in Venice, some lithographed views in Belgium, and several other drawings.

Mr. F. W. Ordish contributed a series of views in Rome, Milan, &c., and the plan to which the premium was recently awarded for the proposed Corn Exchange in Leicester.

Mr. Skidmore, of Coventry, had a collection of church fittings and communion plate.

Mr. T. L. Walker exhibited drawings of Ilkeston church, the rebuilding of which has been done from his designs.

Mr. G. G. Scott contributed drawings of the Hotel de Ville at Hamburgh, to which the first premium in a public competition was recently awarded, and of the interior of Doncaster Church, as now being rebuilt from Mr. Scott's designs.

Among other contributors were Messrs. Flower, Wilson, R. W. Johnson, &c.

The Afternoon Public Meeting.

E. B. Hartopp, Esq. took the Chair at four o'clock.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley read a lengthy and elaborate paper upon "Croyland Abbey," compiled almost entirely, as stated by Mr. Gresley, from the works of Dr. Stukely, from whose sketches, also, the drawings, by which it was illustrated, were copied. The extracts gave long versions of the legends relative to S. Guthlac. He concluded by regretting the neglect and desecration of the Abbey.*

* This Paper, with copious Illustrations, was afterwards published by the Rev. J. M. Gresley, and by an arrangement with him each member of this Society had a copy gratis.

The Evening Public Meeting.

The Hon. and Rev. John Sandilands in the Chair, who called upon Mr. James Thompson to read his Paper upon

THE EARLY HERALDRY OF LEICESTERSHIRE.

Which that gentleman proceeded to do as follows:—

Every antiquarian inquirer, whose researches embrace the remains of the middle ages, must have perceived, in the course of his studies, the value of a study of heraldry. If in his summer rambles he has entered some venerable church, he has perchance been led to the side of the sculptured effigy of an ancient warrior, reposing in prayerful but grim companionship with her whose society was his solace, when he relaxed from the stern occupations of life. If the stranger inquire whom the figure represents, he is told some vague or incredible story; and perhaps there is not a fragment of inscription to guide him to a correct conclusion. He examines the shield of the knight, and there he finds the coat-armour, which decides what was the family, at least, of the person represented. To give an example of this: there is the effigy of a cross-legged warrior in the church at Tilton, in this county, and near to him lies a lady. In this case there is a short inscription, from which we learn that the warrior is intended for John of Digby; but the lady is undesignated. Her costume, however, bears traces of her lineage; for on her gown, beneath the cloak, thrown partly over her figure, are delineated the arms of Harcourt. On the shield of John Digby are his arms, also—azure, a fleur-de-lis, argent: in chief a crescent of the same, and in the dexter chief a sun, proper. In popular language, his shield represents a white fleur-de-lis on a blue ground, the crescent denoting his descent from the second son of the head of the house. No date is inscribed on either of the monuments; but a reference to the family pedigree shows that John de Digby married Arabella de Harcourt, about the middle of the thirteenth century—six hundred years ago. So that the armorial bearings not only enable us to identify the pair, but to estimate the age of their rude yet interesting effigies.

Nor is heraldry of service with reference to monuments alone. The brilliant coloured glass which even yet remains (though I grieve to say in small fragments) in the windows of our parochial churches, tells its own story, in its quaint devices and lustrous revealings. It frequently presents us with the coats of once distinguished families in obscure corners and remote hamlets. Not infrequently the rim of a baptismal font will be found encircled by a band of shields. I remember meeting with one thus ornamented at Broughton Astley. On noticing this to an antiquarian friend, a

partner in my rural excursion, he discredited the supposition. The shield bore a cinquefoil in the centre; and further inquiry proved that this was the coat of the Astleys—azure, a cinquefoil, ermine—a family which was seated at Broughton at a very early period after the Conquest.

From a perception of the use of heraldic knowledge to the archæologist, we are led to inquire, further, in what way these ancient shields had their origin. In endeavouring to solve this problem, I divide the history of heraldry into two periods: the period before the establishment of the College of Arms by Richard III., and the period following that event.

I adopt this arrangement partly for the sake of convenience, and partly because it accords with the purpose of this paper to treat on the early heraldry of this county. The division also involves the necessity of stating that, while subsequent to the establishment of the Heralds' College all grants of armorial bearings were made by its officers, previous to that event such grants were made by the great nobles themselves.

Few of the members of the Society whom I have the honour to address, need to be informed, that in the feudal ages the country was in the hands of the great barons, who enjoyed within their vast domains the power of sovereignty, holding their courts in their various manors, where, by their stewards, they exercised the authority of condemning to the dungeon or the gallows the offenders against their laws, and living in their castles in a style befitting their rank—exercising a sway, and assuming a pomp, which were truly regal;—being surpassed only by the sway and pomp which the king himself wielded and assumed. The court of the great earl was in truth a representation, only on a somewhat smaller scale, of the court of his superior lord, the King of England. Had the monarch his palace, the baron had his castle. Had the monarch his throne, the baron had his canopied chair of state. Had the monarch his crown, the baron had his coronet. Had the monarch his splendid retinue, the baron had his meney or gathering. Had the monarch his army, the baron had his vassals, sworn by oaths of fealty to follow his banner. Had the monarch his heralds and pursuivants, who blazoned his achievements on his pennons, the baron had also his heralds, who set forth his armorial bearings, and who, by his permission, granted to his principal retainers symbols of honourable distinction, frequently resembling those of their common lord and suzerain.

These few remarks being premised, the development of heraldic laws, in the escutcheons of ancient Leicestershire houses, may now be illustrated. The oldest armorial bearing known in this county is that of the Norman Earls of Leicester—of the descendants of Robert de Beaumont or Bellomont. If the supposition commonly entertained be true, that hereditary arms were not used before the

occurrence of the Crusades, in the reign of Richard Cœur de Lion, then it appears probable the coat of arms of the Earls of Leicester was first worn by Robert Blanchmains, who intended to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, but died on his way to Palestine. His son, Robert Fitzparnel, was one of the heroes of the adventurous enterprise, having unhorsed the Soldan himself in a tournament in the Holy Land; and he undoubtedly made use of the armorial ensign with which every inhabitant of Leicester is familiar—gules, a cinquefoil, ermine.

It may be necessary here to interpose, for the benefit of the uninitiated, the explanation that the heraldic terms for "colour" are "tincture" and "fur," and that all tinctures and furs are designated by terms peculiar to the science. Thus "argent" means white; "sable," black; "azure," blue; "vert," green; and "gules," red. In the absence of colour, lines are used to convey the same ideas: horizontal lines, for example, represent "azure," and perpendicular lines represent "gules," or red. In the arms of the ancient Earls of Leicester, for ages adopted and used by this borough, the ground of the shield, called the "field," is red, and the cinquefoil is ermine, having the points and dots resembling those of the fur of that animal.

The actual proof of the use of this coat by Robert Fitzparnel is the former existence of the seal with which his charter to the burgesses of Leicester was attested, and which was extant some years ago. As this deed was executed about the year 1200—between the years 1190 and 1204, when he was Earl of Leicester—this is an example of the use of heraldic bearings at once early and remarkable.

Why the cinquefoil was adopted as the charge on this shield, we cannot determine. It has been conjectured that it was derived from a rose, which it somewhat resembles. But whether it was or was not, it has been for centuries described as it is now. All tradition concerning the charge is lost, and we may assume it was an arbitrarily-adopted symbol, in the first instance, afterwards retained for convenience sake, because identified inseparably with the banner of the Earls of Leicester by their contemporaries, and their followers, as the symbol seen on many a well-fought field in foreign climes.

Having thus become established, this shield seems to have been early granted, with various alterations, to the military vassals of the Earls of Leicester. I have counted at least twenty, all derived from this, as the original coat of arms. It will elucidate the nature of our early heraldry briefly to analyse the mode in which some of these were obtained or conceded.

The first coat coming under notice is that of the Abbey of Leicester. This institution, being founded by one of the earls, adopted their armorial bearings without any alteration. It may

be here noticed, that the coat was depicted even on the encaustic tiles of the pavement in the abbey church, numerous samples of them having been discovered during the excavations on the site a few years ago.

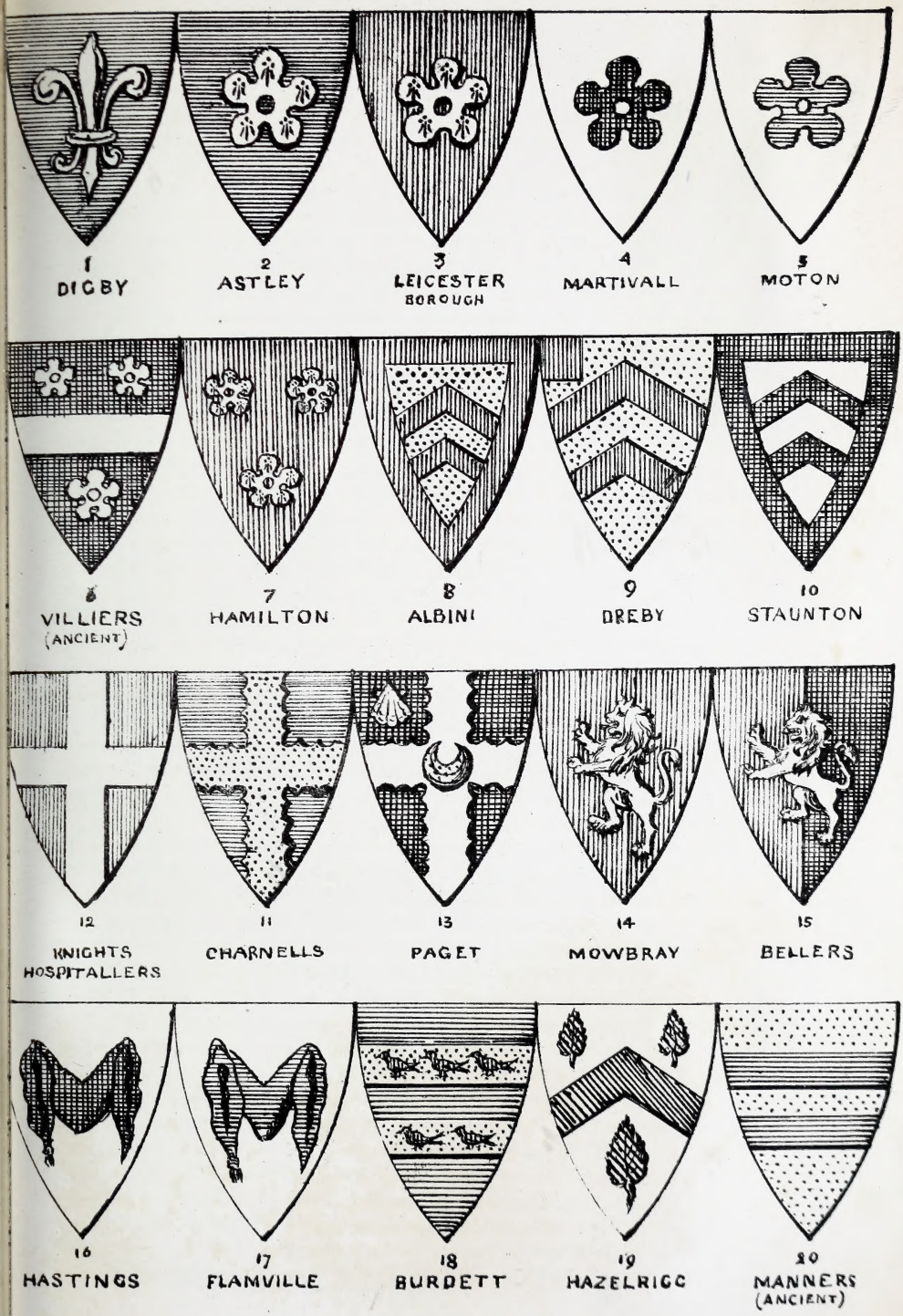
One of the most ancient of English families—that of Astley—which was raised to the peerage, and is now represented by a Wiltshire baronet, derives its original bearings from the ancient Earls of Leicester, as we have already noticed. Holding lands at Broughton, near to Lutterworth, under the ancient earls, they assumed the armorial ensigns of their feudal superior, with a difference in the tinctures. Burton, the county historian, writes of the Astleys :—" This was a very ancient and noble family, having been Barons of Parliament from King Edward I.'s time to the reign of King Henry V. Their chief seat was at Astley, in the county of Warwick, where they had a fair and ancient castle." The date of their assumption of the arms borne by them, and the circumstances under which they were assumed, are not recorded.

The Martivalls, seated at Noseley, originally held the manor under the Earls of Leicester at a very early date. Their coat was derived from their superior lord: it was argent, a cinquefoil, sable. The last heir male of this house was an archdeacon of Leicester, afterwards Bishop of Salisbury, who, dying at the commencement of the reign of Edward III., was succeeded by his sister, Joyce Martivall, from whom one of our presidents, Sir Arthur Hazlerigg, Bart., is lineally descended. It is noticeable that the manor of Noseley has been thus transmitted uninterruptedly in one line of succession, through the male and female descendants of the Martivalls, from the date of the Norman Conquest to the present time —a period of nearly eight hundred years.

The Motons held Peckleton. " This manor (says Burton) belonged to the ancient family of Moton, by the gift of Robert, Earl of Leicester, who bore (in allusion to the arms of the earl) argent, a cinquefoil, azure. Of this family descended Sir Robert Moton, Knight, who lived in the reign of King Henry III.; and Sir Robert Moton, that renowned soldier, often mentioned by Froissart in his history, who served in France in the time of King Edward III., and held a high post of command under him." The shield you see here depicted* has, then, waved over the tented plains of France in the ages when chivalry was in its glory. The family of Moton was represented by a lady in the middle of the fifteenth century; she married Richard Vincent, a Lincolnshire gentleman. With her the family in the male line became extinct.

The heralds having exhausted their ingenuity in changing the colours of the field and the cinquefoil, next appear to have had recourse to an increase of the number of cinquefoils in the

* This paper was illustrated with coloured illustrations of the principal shields referred to, which are copied in line on the accompanying sheet of coats of arms.



LEICESTERSHIRE HERALDRY.

escutcheon. This is exemplified in the ancient shield of the Villiers, which is blazoned on the sheet before you. "This family," remarks Burton, "at their first coming into England, bore sable, three cinquefoils, argent, like the ancient arms of Beaumont, Earl of Leicester, from whose grant (as it should seem) they had lands in this county. But Sir Nicholas de Villiers, Knight, a noble warrior, and follower of that memorable king, Edward I., in his wars in the Holy Land, and elsewhere, left the cinquefoils, and all his martial achievements, and bore the cross of St. George, charged with escallops, or."

The escallops, I may here observe, signified, according to the authority of an old heraldic writer, that the "first owner was a commander, who, by his valour and virtue, endeared himself to his followers, and in requital of their love had ventured to sacrifice himself for their safety."

Another example of the multiplication of cinquefoils is supplied in the coat of the Hamiltons. They held the small manor of Hamilton, or Hambleton, lying between Barkby and Humberstone, by grant from the Earls of Leicester, "and therefore (says Burton) bore for their arms gules, three cinquefoils, ermine." Sir Gilbert de Hamilton, of this town, having slain a member of the Despencer family, in the reign of Edward II., fled into Scotland, where he settled, and his lineal descendant is the present Duke of Hamilton. The genealogists assume that this family descends from the ancient Earls of Leicester, because the arms of Hamilton resemble those of the earls; but this is a pure fiction—the arms being, in the first instance, merely imitated by the Hamiltons, who were the military followers of the earls, in the same way as they were imitated by their other vassals, already named. It is, however, worthy of note, that a family of historical importance so great as the Hamiltons derived their origin from an obscure Leicestershire village, now destroyed, and that the emblems of their rank have been used by them for at least six centuries and a-half.

Other modes of disposing the cinquefoil on the shield might be illustrated, but sufficient has been said to explain the principle. You may, however, be certain whenever you find the cinquefoil in ancient heraldry, it is more or less remotely traceable to the ancient Earls of Leicester, or to one of their chief military tenants.

The second principal house from whom shields were derived in Leicestershire, which may be mentioned, was that of Albany, or Albini, lords of Belvoir, in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, before the families of de Roos and Manners were seated there. Their coat was, "or, two chevrons and a border, gules." We have in this instance a forcible illustration of the feudal system in its full operation. Every one knows the commanding situation of Belvoir Castle. In this lived the chief lord. Around his

fortress lay his numerous manors. From his castle-keep floated the ensign you see here painted. His retainers held the lands around. At Ab-Kettleby the Orebys dwelt, and they imitated the banner of their lord in the manner represented. At Croxton, the Kerriels were seated. Their flag bore argent, two chevrons, and a canton, gules. At Muston, the Charnels dwelt. They displayed gules, a fess, ermine, between two chevrons, or. The Stauntons lived near at hand, in the neighbouring county of Nottingham. They held their lands of the Lord Albany, by the tenure of castle-guard—they were bound to keep and defend a certain tower in the castle of Belvoir against assault and invasion. At a given signal from the summit of its keep, these various knights and gentlemen were ready to muster at the castle, unfurling their pennons to the breeze, each at the head of a gallant band of sturdy horsemen and archers, who rallied round the well-known symbols of their several leaders.

On examining the ancient coats of this county, I have met with at least fifteen presenting the cross as the principal charge. The mode in which this honourable ordinary, and the colours of the shield whereon it is blazoned, are varied, is truly ingenious. This remark may be exemplified by reference to a few of them.

The coat of Charnels of Elmsthorpe was "azure, a cross, engrailed, or," and it was in use as early as in the seventh year of Richard I., the Crusader; William de Charnels having first borne this ensign. He was a tenant of Ernald de Bois, the steward of the Earl of Leicester. It is, however, remarkable that the shield of the Charnels of Elmsthorpe is unlike those of the ancient earls and their stewards, showing that it was not derived from the earls; and it is also noticeable that another member of the Charnels family (of Muston) bore the coat armorial of his lord, Albany, thus proving that it was the early custom of the tenant to imitate his superior's arms, while his relative might use another and distinct shield.

Nearly the opposite coat to that of the Charnels is the shield of the hospital of Burton-upon-Trent—or, on a cross, engrailed, azure, five mullets of the first.

Gules, a plain cross, argent, were the arms of the Knights Hospitallers. The reverse—argent, a plain cross, gules—were the arms of the hospital at Burton-Overy.

In the time of Burton, that is, about the year 1622, in the stained glass of Shakerston Church was to be seen this coat—sable, a cross, argent. He also says, referring to Stapleton, "it has a chapel, with a spire steeple, wherein, under the east window of the chancel, in the wall, these three coats are cut in stone, which, I think, belong to the Charnels—a cross engrailed, a cross engrailed with a label, a cross engrailed, charged in the midst with an annulet." I feel no hesitation in identifying these arms, and those

at Shakerston, with the family of Paget, settled at Ibstock in the reign of Henry VI., and probably earlier.

From the frequent occurrence of the cross on the shields of ancient families resident on the western side of the county, and in adjacent districts of Staffordshire and Warwickshire, it may be inferred that they are all traceable to one common suzerain lord—it may be to the Knights Hospitallers; but the question is open to inquiry.

Two other leading houses also acquired note in this county in the latter part of the middle ages: I mean the Mowbrays and the Hastingses. The former gave their name to Melton Mowbray, of which town they were the lords from the reign of Edward II. to that of Edward IV. Their arms were—Gules, a lion rampant, argent. These were imitated by the family of Bellers, who held under them the lordship of Kirkby. The arms of Beller, as here blazoned, show how the coat was adapted. The family of Hastings was originally settled at Kirby Muxloe. They bore argent, a maunch, sable; and their tenants, the Flamvilles, of Aston, near Hinckley, bore argent, a maunch, azure; their crest being, in allusion to their name, a flame of fire, proper.

I now invite your attention to another class of shields, illustrative of our early county heraldry. Those to which I am about to refer, are sometimes called *armes parlantes*, or "canting arms," because the charges they bear have reference to the name of the persons entitled to use them. Of this kind there are many examples. It will suffice to select a few.

The Burdetts bore five martletts; the *birds*, it is supposed, having reference to the name. Not a very apt allusion, certainly.

The Conisbys—three conies sitting.

The Corbets—two ravens, in allusion to the Latin word *corvus*, or the French *corbeille*.

The Ferrers—the nine horse-shoes, pointing to farriery.

The Fowlers—three herons, in reference to the name, and probably the occupation, of the person who first took the surname; as the Falconers, formerly seated at Thurcaston, bore three falcons.

Hopton—a lion hopping in a tun.

The Hazleriggs—the three leaves of the *hazel*, and a chevron, not unlike the *ridge* of a house roof.

The Lucys—three luces, or pike fish.

The Shevesbys—three sheaves.

The Wolfs—a wolf leaping.

Of the arms familiar to the inhabitants of this county in the later mediæval period, the shield of the house of Manners was probably the best known. By the marriage of the heiress of De Roos with Robert de Manners, the castle and estates became the possession of that family. In the first instance they bore, or, two bars, azure; but the grandson of Robert de Manners, on being

created Earl of Rutland, received the augmentation to his arms, in the chief point of the escutcheon, here painted, in consequence of his descent from the sister of Edward IV.

In leaving this part of the subject, it may be observed, that one chief feature in our ancient churches, before the spirit of iconoclasm prevailed in this country, was its painted glass, shining with hues of varied brilliancy. The subjects chosen by the mediæval artists were not merely figures of saints and rude attempts at the delineation of the great events of sacred history; but the emblazonment of the arms of the ancient lords of the soil, and the benefactors to the parish churches. As Burton says, in his "Description of Leicestershire," under the head Edmundthorpe, "concerning the arms in church windows, I have observed that they who were either lords of the manor, patrons of the church, or benefactors thereto, or held any fees, or lands of inheritance within the parish, did usually set up their coat armours, and sometimes their portraits (drawn as near to the life as they could) in the windows; and many times their coats were set up instead of matches, before impaling or quartering was in use, which were set up, and in places the most eminent, remarkable, and freest from injury and violence. In these places, also, were monuments of great worth and art erected; banners, streamers, pennons, and guidhams hung up for worthy memorials of the deceased. . . . . Through the covetousness or necessity of some poor clerks, or sextons, or the want or poverty of some needy curates, many of these antiquities are broken, ruined, and utterly defaced; for which inhuman and sacrilegious acts many devise and maintain some reasonable colours and specious pretences." Burton then gives an instance of defacement, which had led to a lawsuit in the reign of Edward IV. The particulars were these:—A parson of St. Margaret's church, at Lothbury, in London, had taken away a coat-armour with the arms of Sir Hugh Wiche, a mercer, who had been Lord Mayor of London, from the chapel in which Sir Hugh had been buried. Lady Wiche brought an action in the King's Bench against the clergyman, to replace the ensigns he had removed. The parson pleaded that these arms, pennons, and a sword accompanying them, were offerings and oblations, and therefore belonged to him; but the judge who presided decided in favour of the lady, holding that the various memorials were hung up in honour of the deceased knight, and therefore did not belong to the parson. "For," said the judge, "I use to sit in the chancel, and I have brought thither a carpet, a cushion, and a book; shall the parson have these because they are brought into the chancel? I say no; no more in the other case."

Extensive as the injury done to these relics appears to have been, at the time of the publication of Burton's history (now more than two hundred and thirty years ago), there were then remaining in the parish churches of the town and county of Leicester large

numbers of armorial bearings. These are all duly recorded in the work; but very few of them still remain. Many have been removed by the ruthless hands of meddlesome churchwardens, and others by the equally ruthless, though better informed "restorers" of many of the sacred edifices. I do not know to which of these two classes to attribute the greater share in the destructive process. I hope it is not necessary now to ask, while so many parish churches are undergoing either repair, restoration, or reconstruction, that every vestige of ancient glass may be scrupulously preserved; for not even its replacement by glass gaudy in colour and strange in effect, as are the various aspects of the kaleidescope (of which an example occurs in the north-western part of Leicestershire), will compensate for the absence of the work of antiquity itself—however grotesque in character, rude in execution, or faded in colour.

Having now fulfilled my purpose of attempting to throw some light upon the early heraldry of Leicestershire, I bring these remarks to a conclusion. In tracing the various coats of early days to the chief barons, the operation of the feudal system has thus, though but slightly and incidentally, been explained. In citing examples of arms allusive, we have shown what far-fetched and quaint fancies sometimes governed the early heralds in devising armorial bearings.

Possibly these few observations, desultorily connected, may also have given to persons previously unacquainted with "the gentle art of blazon," an idea of the purport and use of heraldry in the days of our ancestors. Idle, vain, and puerile, as that art is deemed by the professedly-enlightened utilitarians of modern times, I take leave to think, at the risk of incurring their displeasure, that a knowledge of the art will ever be considered an accomplishment by those to whom the kindred studies of archæology and history commend themselves. There was a time when many of these ensigns now pictured before you were the tokens of valiant leaders and brave knights, who shed their blood on many a battle-field; and which, as they fluttered in the breeze, stirred the hearts of men with the power of the trumpet blast; and around which they gallantly gathered when the tide of battle ran high, and bravely died in defence of the barons they served and the country they loved. In one of these shields, which the burgesses of this borough to this day preserve and use as a symbol of the municipality, most of my hearers will feel some interest. Originally pertaining to the Earls of Leicester, it was in time adopted by their vassals, the ancient burgesses, and no doubt it figured on the flag under which they served in war. We find it, indeed, distinctly alluded to in an ancient ballad, composed immediately after the coronation of Edward IV., by a Yorkist, principally relating to the battle of Towton. It enumerates by their banners the chief towns which

sent men to aid the victorious party, and to avenge the invasion of the South by the Northerns. After naming various places by a reference to the badge or crest used by the inhabitants in their corporate capacity, it proceeds in the following manner, the phraseology being adapted to the present day :—

> "The wolf came from Worcester, full sure he thought to bite,
> The dragon came from Gloucester, he bent his tail to smite,
> The griffin came from Leicester, flying in as tight,
> The George came from Nottingham, with spear for to fight."

Lastly, I may remark, these ancient shields have not, it is true, the signification they had in ancient days ; but to those who can read them aright, they form auxiliaries to the remembrance of history, and where their inheritors in the present day can legitimately refer to them as the insignia of their forefathers, they may do so with becoming pride, if they themselves are not unworthy of their ancestry, or if they can add a lustre to their achievements. In one sense these inherited trophies form part of our national history; as they are also the memorials of individual prowess and of individual distinction. They are relics of an age which, amid much that was fantastic, and something that was extravagant, was an age of noble deed, of patriotic effort, and of heroic daring,—the age of chivalry. It was the remark of the most eloquent English statesman of the last century, when the *sansculottes* of Paris had offered indignity to the gifted and beautiful, but indiscreet and unfortunate, Marie Antoinette—"The age of chivalry is gone." But in this apostrophe, the illustrious Burke was at least premature; for, had he lived in the present day, he would have been willing to confess, that on four fields which have been fought within the last twelve months, the old spirit has gleamed once more into vivid life and unwonted power. No deed of the middle ages can, for example, surpass in its gallantry and intrepidity the charge at Balaklava, which is so fresh in your memories as to need no new recital. I believe the old mediæval spirit, yet cherished among the noblemen and gentlemen of England, transmitted to them from a line of ancestors who have preserved unsullied escutcheons, has had much to do with the manifestation of the manly and heroic qualities here passingly mentioned. What but a history of ancient achievement—what but the traditions of long-descended houses—what but the preservation of these sometimes derided armorial ensigns—what but the lighting up again of the supposed extinct spirit of chivalry—nerves the arms and animates the souls of those whose honour and whose privilege it is to bear names which sound like histories, and to use symbols which are monuments of ancient renown? Depend upon it, if the glory of England is to be maintained, it will be by preserving the traditions and appealing to the memories of those times when chivalry was the ruling passion of the age, and personal qualities, high, and generous, and noble, were

valued; and not by seeking to discard the remembrances of that age, by deriding its achievements, and by substituting the thirst for gain, or the timid maxims of mere peacemongers, for a brave patriotism and a self-sacrificing heroism.

A vote of thanks having been awarded to Mr. Thompson for his paper, the Chairman requested the Rev. John Denton to read his promised paper on "Local Architectural Peculiarities." Mr. Denton said he had intended to have called the attention of the Meeting to the peculiarities of church architecture in various parts of the country, but not having been able to do so, he should read a paper which he read five years ago before the Cambridge Architectural Society, but which he had now rewritten. The subject of the paper was "Howden Church." The paper was a highly eloquent one, and contained much of interesting matter relating to the edifice under notice, and in connection with ecclesiastical architecture generally.*

The Chairman (after the thanks of the Meeting had been given to Mr. Denton) called upon Mr. T. R. Potter to read his paper on

ULVERSCROFT PRIORY.

Having been requested by your Committee to read a Paper on the present occasion, and feeling desirous of doing anything in my power for a Society whose objects are so commendable, I was unwilling to refuse, though I have little to say, and that little rather *dry-as-dust* matter for such an audience.

One of the objects of interest to be visited in the Society's Excursion is the romantic ruin of Ulverscroft. A few observations upon it may enable the strangers who honour us with their presence, and propose to join the Excursion, better to understand and therefore better to enjoy this "finest monastic ruin of our county."

To those conversant with the locality I can offer little that is new, and it would not, on an occasion like the present, when others have to address you, be desirable to occupy your time with anything like an attempt at a *regular history* of the Priory. It seems better, under the circumstances, that I should present you with a few outlines of the salient points, and leave you to fill up the picture by that actual inspection which tomorrow's visit will afford.

An antiquary, however, likes to "begin at the beginning." The name of a place, therefore, first arrests his attention:—

Ulverscroft, Ulvescroft, Ullescross, Alwayscroft, and Woulves-

* We have much pleasure in referring the reader to the Historical Collector, vol. i., for a full report of this excellent Paper which we are reluctantly obliged to omit reprinting here.

thorpe, as the name has, at various times, been written, has been stated to have been derived from a *cross* that once stood near the spot, and there certainly was, at no great distance, an ancient cross called St. Robert's Cross. But this would only account, and very badly too, for the terminating syllable. The former part of the name has been stated to have been derived from the fact of *wolves* having in remote times infested the locality, and an elegant writer, the late Rev. Thos. Gisborne, in his poem of "*Rothley Temple*," thus alludes to that supposed derivation:—

"Through Charnwood's heights their passage lay,
But fearful was the snowy way,
For oft, in cavities profound,
Down sank, abrupt, a rocky mound.
And loud, thro' ice the torrent roared,
And hard to find the treacherous ford,
And bogs no stag in *June* might pass
In white were veiled—a fluid mass,
And safe on *Bardon's* craggy side
The trooping WOLVES might yet abide,
And still with midnight yellings howl
To comrades that on Beacon prowl;
Or follow on the scent of blood
From Birchwood Hill—to Timberwood,
While Iveshead—starting from repose—
Mourns to Lubcloud his purple snows.
Such yells on Baldwin's rock aloft
O'er meads and folds of Ulverscroft,
Still would the wakeful friars hear,
And *tremble for their wonted cheer.*"

But I believe that a more satisfactory etymon will be found in the fact that at the time of the compilation of Domesday Book, ULFI is described as possessing land in Groby, and in a charter of William, first Lord Ferrars, of Groby, an inclosure between Leyfield and Newtown, which formed a portion of the lands of the Priory, is called Ulfichala, probably meaning the cottage of Ulfi, for I conclude that *chala* is the French word *châlet* latinized.

It has been truly said, "they knew *where* to build—those monkish builders." Accordingly, we shall find *Ulvescroft,* as I prefer calling it, situated in a spot exactly adapted to the habits of monastic life. Our old historian, Burton, says of it:—"At Ullescroft, standing in a *dearne and solitary place*, Robert Blanchmains, Earl of Leicester, in the time of Henry II., founded a small Priory for Eremites of the Order of St. Augustin." But Nichols shows, very satisfactorily, from a Bull of Pope Alexander III., dated 1174, that the Priory was founded by Robert Bossu, for that Bull mentions "*jura, dignitates et privilegia quæ Ecclesia nostra a quadragìnta retrò annis noscetur habuisse.*" These forty years deducted from 1174 would evidently refer the original foundation to the time of Bossu—to the very year, in fact, in which that Earl also founded Garendon Abbey on the other side of the forest. Leland errs more widely than Burton, for he makes Roger de

Quincy, Earl of Winton, *fundator primus*, and the Marquis of Dorset *fundator modernus*, evidently in the first case mistaking a benefactor for a *founder*, and the Marquis of Dorset for William, third Lord Ferrars, of Groby: The patronage of the Priory continued in the Earls of Leicester, and devolved on Roger de Quincy in right of his mother Margaret, one of the co-heiresses of Robert Fitz Parnell, fourth Earl; and this Roger's daughter Margaret, marrying William de Ferrars, first Lord Ferrars, carried the patronage into the Ferrars family. All these were benefactors to the Priory. For the first two centuries, however, after the foundation, Ulvescroft continued to be a religious house of very moderate pretensions, not having more than three resident brethren, who were priests. As Spenser says,—

> "A little lowly Hermitage it was—
> Down in a dell hard by a Forest side,
> Far from resort of people that did pass
> In travel to and fro. A little wide,
> There was a little chapel edified,
> Wherein the Hermit duly wont to say,
> His holy things each morn and eventide.
> Thereby a crystal stream did sweetly play,
> Which from a sacred fountain welled forth away."

It was in the middle of the fourteenth century, that William, the *third* Lord Ferrars, of Groby, obtained license to bestow upon it considerable possessions, and by enlarging, or, indeed, nearly rebuilding the house, well earned for himself the appellation of *fundator modernus*. There are those before me who will to-morrow point out to you the distinctive traces of the old and new foundation, and enlarge on the spot, on the architectural features of the ruin, so much more ably than I can do, that I may well spare myself and you further remark on this point.

I must, however, direct your special attention to the sedilia in what was the chancel of the conventual church, to the stone pulpit in a thick buttress of the Refectory, and the traces of the Cloisters and the Chapter House.

By his will, however, dated June 1, 1368, this third Lord Ferrars bequeathed his body to be buried in the conventual church of our Lady at Ulvescroft, and gave £100. to be distributed to the poor and for his funeral expenses, "whereat must be 5 tapers, 4 morters, and 24 torches." Both this nobleman and his son held the advowson, as did William, fifth and last Lord Ferrars, of Groby, who died in 1455, and was also interred here.

When the estates of the Ferrars family passed by marriage to the Greys, the latter family seems to have continued to regard the Priory with great affection, and it was under the patronage of the Greys that it appears to have arrived at the culminating point of its power. At no period of its existence, however, did its yearly income exceed £101. 3s. 10½d., and the wonder is how, with so

small an income, the house was enabled to maintain such good cheer, and to exercise such unbounded charity and hospitality as I am about to show you were maintained and exercised by the Priors of Ulvescroft about the period to which I am referring. They kept their hounds and hawks; they employed a ranger, a huntsman, and a falconer; they had a woodreeve and seven woodmen constantly employed in cutting firewood for the house—in their own words; they brewed ten quarters of malt *weekly;* they kept open house for all visitors and wayfarers; they maintained all the poor in all the adjoining parishes—in fact, for miles round, and the larder was as well supplied with venison as the cellar was with strong ale. And all this out of less than two pounds a week! They were, however, considerable forest farmers, having at one time 300 beasts, 1000 sheep, and 300 swine on the Forest.

I have not a doubt but that the Prior and eight brethren "fared right sumptuously," but I believe they have been unjustly accused of imbibing *themselves* the enormous quantity of malt liquor which their brewhouse weekly produced. As Scott says, they occasionally "drank *upsees* out," but a portion at least of the week's brewing *went to my Lord Marquis at Bradgate*, for I find in the record of a dispute between the Duke of Suffolk and Mr. Trideswell Stretley, in 1553, respecting the Priory lands, that Wm. Systin, one of the witnesses, deposed that "about 40 years now past, Master Belton, the cellarer of the Priory, besought the Marquis of Dorset that as their outwoods were so spoiled *by reason of brewing and baking for the said Lord Marquis*, it would please him to grant them some of his *own* woods to fell." So you see all the 700 gallons a week must not be placed to the score of the Prior.

At the same inquisition it was proved that "upon a time about forty years past, Lord Thomas, Marquis of Dorset, was offended at Prior Whalley *for his hunting*, which the said Prior hearing, went to Bradgate to the said Lord Marquis, and amongst others took the deponent to attend him, and delivered him a box to carry, wherein was a grant from one of the ancestors of the said Lord, of the liberty of hunting, hawking, fishing, and fowling to the Priors of Ulverscroft, upon which being produced, this deponent heard the Marquis say thus 'Well, Prior, I have put forth my red deer lately: spare *them* I pray thee, and spare not the fallow deer.' He likewise said that Prior Dalby, Sir William Eland, and all the Canons, except Sir Thomas Massey, Sir Thomas Mason, and Sir Richard Eglatt, were *common hunters*. Another witness deposed that the Priors, during the 51 years he had been at the house, had always kept hounds, greyhounds, and hawks of their own, and did hunt, course, and hawk through the waste of Charnwood unto the saulte (saltum) of the parks of Bradgate, Groby, and Loughborough, that is to say fallow deer, roe, foxes, hares, &c., and did hawke at the partridges and *pheasants*." I have a note here which, though

interrupting my narrative, may perhaps be of sufficient interest to make it worth reading:—

This early mention of pheasants reminds me that much uncertainty prevails as to the period of the first introduction of the pheasant in England. The following grant of *Edward the Confessor* to Randolph Peperking, from the Exchequer Rolls, proves it to have been introduced even earlier than the time of that monarch.

"Iche Edward Koning
Have given of my forest and keeping
Of the Hundred of Chelmer and Doneing
To Randolph Peperkyng and his kindling
With harte, hind, doe, and bocke
Hare and fox, cat and brocke
Wilde fowell with his flocke
Fesant hen and fesant cocke
With green and wild stob and stock."

It is not unlikely that this is a monkish rhyme of the annual grant, as the style is clearly that of a much later period than Edward the Confessor.

I resume—I should have stated that the priories of Ulverscroft and Charley were united in 1465. Tanner, however, states that they were united by the Earl of Winton in the time of Edward II., but there is no evidence whatever of this.

In 1525 Henry the Eighth granted a lease for twenty-one years, of the manor of Cheleysmore, Warwickshire, to Prior Whalley. It was no doubt through the King's connexion with the *Greys* that he was induced thus to benefit the house.

We approach the period of the dissolution. At the suppression of the smaller abbeys in 1534, Ulverscroft was of course included, but either through the intercession of the Greys, or through the following remarkable letter bearing testimony to the good conduct of the House, the order for its suppression was rescinded, and the Priory was specially *re*-founded by Henry VIII.

I will read this letter: it is from Gyffard, one of the Commissioners for visiting Religious Houses, and is addressed to the Lord Cromwell:—

Gyffard's Letter to one of the Commissioners for Visiting Religious Houses.

"The sure knowledge I have had always in your indifference, giveth me boldness to write to you in the favour of the house of Woulstorp; the governor whereof is a very good husband for the house, and well beloved of all the inhabitants thereunto adjoining; a right, honest man, having eight religious persons being Priests,*

* These were—Edward Dalby, prior; Richard Eglate; Thomas Mason; William Bland; Thomas Wymondeswold; William Smythe; William Belton; George Smythe. They subscribed the King's supremacy, September 17, 1534.

of right-good conversation, and living religiously, having sincere qualities of virtue as we have not found the like in no other place; for there is not one religious person there but that he can and doth use either embrothering, or writing books with very fair hand, making their own garnements, carving, painting, or graffying; the house without any slander or evil fame, and standing in a waste ground, very solitary—keeping such hospitality that, except by singular good provision, it could not be maintained with half so much land more as they may spend; such a number of the poor inhabitants nigh thereunto daily relieved, that we have not seen the like having no more land than they have. God be ever my judge as I do write unto you the truth and none otherwise to my knowledge, *which very pity alone causes me to write.* The premises, whereof considered, in most humble wise, I beseech you to be a mean unto the King's Majesty for the standing of the said Woulstorp, whereby his grace shall do a myche gracious and a meritorious act for the relief of his poor subjects there; and ye shall be sure not only to have the continual prayers of those religious persons there, but also the hearty prayer of all the inhabitants within four or five miles about that house. And this for lack of wytt, I am told to write unto you in the pleynes of my heart, as unto him that of all living creatures I have most assured and faithful trust in. So knoweth our Lord God; who have you in his most merciful tuition!

"From Garadon (Garendon) the xix day of June

"Your bounden bedeman at commandment,

"GEORGE GYFFARD."

The prayer prevailed. A copy of the Letters Patent, dated 30th of January, 1536-7, granted unto the Prior of the Priory of the *Holy Trinity* of Alwayscrofte, or Olvescroft, is now in the possession of the owner of the estate. After reciting the act for the dissolution of the smaller monasteries, the letters declare that "the said priory shall *for ever* continue in its same body corporate, and without suppression *or dissolution.*"

Notwithstanding this, Prior Dalby and his brethren were induced, three years afterwards, to surrender the priory into the King's hands!

A *very few* monasteries were excepted at the general dissolution, but I am not aware of any *parallel* case of suppression, refounding, and resurrender, to that of Ulvescroft.

It is really sad to tell of the change of these holy men's situation from a state of almost baronial luxury to that of abject poverty. The Prior became the *farming man;* the Canons (though all had small pensions), wandering outcasts. The church was stripped of its treasures; the plate and furniture sold; the coffers containing the ancient charters and deeds (over which we should all like to

pore), were broken open, and the muniments scattered about the fields. Some of them, however, were picked up and translated into English by the order of Sir Andrew Judd, a subsequent grantee. The injustice and bad faith of the Sovereign, the vicissitudes of the monks, and the sudden withdrawal of extensive charities, present a painful picture of the means had recourse to in bringing about our glorious Reformation—means which, even those who rejoice at the change effected, can scarcely fail to deplore. One ceases to wonder why the Poor Law Statute of Elizabeth should have been so closely consequent on the dissolution of the monasteries.

The Earl of Rutland (who also obtained a grant of Garendon Abbey) was the first grantee from the Crown. He sold the priory and domain to Sir Andrew Judd, who in 1550 resold to Henry, Duke of Suffolk. The Duke, with a commendable desire of possessing what had so long been the favoured religious house and burying-place of his ancestors, purchased it of Sir Andrew, but, by his attainder, it again reverted to the Crown, and Queen Mary bestowed it on her favourite Fredeswide Strelly, to be held *in capite*, by the service of the fortieth part of one knight's fee, and the yearly rent of £20. Mrs. Strelly entailed the estate on her nephews, the Wilsons, by whose descendant in 1609, the Priory House and 1358 acres were sold to Robert Peshall, Esq., whose only daughter carried it by marriage to Sir Robert Bosville, of Byana, from whom it descended by inheritance to the Reverend Lyon Emerson, and I was rejoiced a few years ago to witness the sale to the present representative of the Ferrars and Greys, of Groby—the young Earl of Stamford and Warrington. The price, if I recollect right, was £37,000. And here permit me to express a hope that good taste and a reverence for what his ancestors had evidently dearly loved, will lead the earl to preserve the remains of this beautiful monument of their piety, perhaps, indeed,—

"More beauteous in its *ruin* than its *prime*."

You will see to-morrow that mischief has been at work; odious red pantiles have obtruded their ugly glaze upon the sombre stonework of the ruin. Portions of the conventual buildings have been turned to domestic and agricultural uses. This circumstance may, however, have led to their preservation; and if so, it should be rejoiced at rather than regretted. Your visit of tomorrow will do something towards investing the spot with fresh interest. You will have a glorious treat! You will find none of the rich stained glass which *Wysley* found in 1596, none of the venison and malvoisie and strong ale which would have been your welcome three centuries ago, none of the tombs of the Ferrarses, none of the rich architectural details which Melrose and Kirkstall and Fountain's Abbey present, but you will find what such a high authority as Bloxam

has pronounced "the finest monastic ruin in the county," and you will from the ruins draw a correct conclusion of what Ulvescroft must have been in its pride! "A tale of the times of old" will be told to you. Time will not allow you to linger long in a scene which, now the glories of the forest oaks and rocks have passed away, has lost much of its loveliness, but which is still so "beautiful exceedingly," that you will be disposed to wish Ulvescroft had been the sole object of the day's excursion. There are objects of interest all round the ruin. There is Benn's Cliffe—a station of the Bennines; there is Copt Oak, where the ancestor of our Herricks harangued his troops at the Conquest; there is the Monk's Well, which had once its coped oak; and nearer is the little Gethsemane. I should mention, too, that beautiful encaustic tiles would reward a little rooting in the rubbish eastward of the tower. The present Lord Annesley, when a pupil of Mr. Alford, at Wymeswold, discovered several of such rare devices and singular inscriptions, that I regret I have neither the originals nor drawings of them to shew you. I am trespassing. You will have gleaned from these cursory remarks, that he who addresses you is one of those who, rejoicing at our Reformation, feels regret at the modes adopted for its accomplishment, who "like the match, but not the mode of wooing." The destruction of monastic houses and the alienation of the church property seem as great a wrong as it would be in the present day to destroy all our venerable cathedrals. We might have had the good without the evil. We have, however, got beautiful ruins, and one of the aims of your society is, no doubt, to preserve them.

I may be pardoned for concluding, as I began, with poetry. The lines which I am about to read are by Montgomery, and they are so appropriate, that even those who do not admit the correctness of the poet's interpretation of a mystical word in the last line, will be ready to admit the great beauty and truth of the rest of the sonnet:—

"Thy glory hath departed, Ulversdale—
Thy gorgeous pageant of monastic pride!
A power that once the power of kings defied,
  Which truth and reason might in vain assail,
  In mock humility usurped this Vale,
And lauded it o'er regions far and wide,
Darkness to light—evil to good allied
  Had wrought a charm which made all hearts to quail.
What gave that Power dominion o'er this ground
Age after age? THE WORD OF GOD WAS BOUND.

At length the mighty captive burst from thrall,
  O'erturned the spiritual Bastile in its march,
  And left of ancient grandeur this sole arch
Whence slaves cry out, thus *Babylon* itself shall fall!"

It only remains for me to return my thanks to the Society for the honour it has done me by electing me an honorary member,

and to express a hope that I may be able to do something to deserve the distinction.

Votes of thanks to Mr. Potter for his Paper, to the Exhibitors, and to the Chairman, terminated the proceedings.

September 11*th*, 1855.

THE EXCURSION.

THE carriages were soon out of the town, rattling along the Groby turnpike. By some oversight the visit to the "Bird's Nest," near the Frith, was omitted; so the party proceeded onward to Kirby Muxloe. Here, the line of vehicles halted in succession at the gateway leading down to the ruined Castle; and as each vehicle discharged its occupants the group became larger, until at last it formed a considerable crowd—there being not less than fifty or sixty ladies and gentlemen in the party. Among the company were the principal visitors of the previous day, including those from Northamptonshire.

At the request of the honorary secretary of the society, Mr. Thompson briefly addressed the party, giving a few facts in connection with the history of the building. He stated that it was erected after the conclusion of the Civil Wars of the fifteenth century, known as the Wars of the Roses. That was a period when the strong castles of the feudal barons were no longer necessary, but when a regard for defence was found requisite, as well as provision for domestic comfort. The castle was erected by the first Lord Hastings, the companion and favourite of Edward the Fourth, to whom that monarch had granted licenses to build castles at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Kirby Muxloe, and Bagworth. The castle at Ashby-de-la-Zouch all had probably seen; that was on a scale of magnitude surpassing Kirby Muxloe, the latter having more the character of a rural residence. With respect to the architectural features of the edifice, he was speaking in the presence of gentlemen who understood them better than he did, and therefore he would leave them unexplained.

Mr. Flower mentioned that he had been told by the late Mr. Winstanley, that he remembered a group of towers at the north end of the ruins, similar to those now standing at the south end, but his father wanting bricks for a barn pulled them down. Mr. Winstanley himself, however, disapproved of the proceeding, and made some efforts to preserve the remains.

The inspection of Kirby Castle being concluded, the party proceeded on its route to Ratby—some of the visitors being of opinion that the architecture was of a later date than that of the licence to

erect it, namely 1474; this topic was freely discussed among them while on their way to "Ratby burrow."

On their arrival here, the Archæologists at once proceeded to inspect the Roman encampment. The decided and well-developed outlines of the agger and vallum, all round the area (comprising between nine and ten acres), struck the observation of every visitor, and left no doubt in any mind relative to the original design of these earthworks. On arriving at the extremity of it, Mr. Thompson was again requested by several members of the party to give them a few words on the nature of the work before them, which he did, illustrating his observations by pointing out the shape and position of the encampment, in relation to the surrounding scenery. Mr. Thompson gave it as his opinion that it had been formed in the middle of the first century of the Christian era, while the Romans had been engaged in the subjugation of this island—that it had been constructed in the midst of a hostile population—and that it had probably been afterwards retained by the Romans as a summer encampment for the purposes of military drill and parade, and to keep alive a martial spirit amongst the soldiery.

The ground having been perambulated, the visitors again took their places in the carriages, and were rapidly whirled to Groby Castle, where Mr. Breedon Everard received them with his usual old English hospitality, and provided refreshment in the arbour of his garden. Several of the party ascended the mound on which the keep formerly stood, and made sketches of different parts of the building.

The visit to the castle having occupied a short time, the *cortége* was again in motion, and in a few minutes was skirting Groby pool. Many of the visitors broke into exclamations of delight, as its clear and smooth expanse suddenly lay exposed before them—its beauty being enhanced by the varied masses of colour which diversified the surface and that of its banks, as it lay apparently basking in the beautiful sunshine. When the carriages arrived at Newtown, the principal portion of the visitors at once took their way by the church, and through the valley, covered with its fine old oaks and ferns, to the ruins of Bradgate.

Here the chapel was opened for their inspection. On returning to Newtown, the party found that host Beck had provided for them an ample board of cold meat, which furnished a most satisfactory luncheon, to which justice was not figuratively, but literally and earnestly, done by every one of the guests.

Again, after a sufficient interval had been allowed, the archæologists and their friends returned to their carriages, which rolled along rapidly to Ulverscroft Priory. Here the remains were carefully and fully examined, and the situation of the ancient pulpit, formerly standing in the refectory, was pointed out. The party seemed pleased with the picture presented, but many of them

wished they had been on the spot before the stacks had been raised so as to intercept the view of the former nave and chancel of the priory.

The next place visited was Rothley Temple, where remains are still to be seen of the chapel connected with the mansion, on the site which was once the Preceptory of the Knights Templars. The church was also examined, with the ancient cross near the chancel, of which so many conjectures—all hitherto unsatisfactory—have been formed.

From Rothley the party drove homewards, arriving at the Bell Hotel at six o'clock, some of the visitors having arranged for their departure by a train leaving Leicester about that time.

October 29th, 1855.

THE Rev. R. Stephens, in the chair.

The Rev. F. Thorp, rector of Burton Overy, and Mr. Alfred Ellis, of Belgrave, were elected members.

Mr. T. L. Walker presented to the society an historical account of the church of Ilkeston, Derbyshire, compiled by himself; together with a lithographic print of it, as recently restored from his designs, and under his superintendence.

Mr. G. H. Nevinson proposed that the Rev. J. M. Gresley be requested to allow his paper upon Croyland Abbey, compiled from the unpublished writings of Dr. Stukeley, and read at the late public meeting of the Society, to be printed with the Report in the volume of "Transactions," &c., of the Architectural Societies. Mr. Gresley expressed his willingness to do so, provided that it could be illustrated by a sufficient number of prints from Stukeley's drawings. It was also proposed that Mr. Thompson's paper upon Local Heraldry, read upon the same occasion, should be printed. The Secretaries were instructed to make the necessary enquiries respecting the expense which it would involve, previously to any final decision.

Mr. Thompson exhibited a fibula and arrow-head, recently discovered in a Saxon interment in a neighbouring county. The excavations are likely to be continued, the results of which he hoped to communicate at a future meeting.

The Rev. R. Burnaby exhibited a silver ring, dug up in 1820, at Shudy Camps, Cambridgeshire, inscribed ✠ LoVE-AND-oBAY. The letter R, with which it is stamped inside, was the Assay Office letter for the year 1594.

Mr. G. H. Nevinson exhibited a small bronze figure, seated, with a ring attached to the hinder part of it, from which four short

chains, with small staples at the ends of them, are suspended. Also four third brass Roman coins; two of them of Constantius and Crispus.

Mr. T. Nevinson exhibited a door of an Aumbrey in oak, containing a representation of a winged person, perhaps S. Michael, surrounded by dragons' heads, intertwined with foliage. The carving is rude in execution, and appears to be probably of the thirteenth century. The iron hinges upon it are good, and worthy of imitation.

Mr. Ingram produced, for more minute inspection, some objects of curiosity lately exhibited at the public meeting of the Society. They are the property of John Marriott, Esq., of Beeby, and were found four or five years ago, about two and a-half feet below the surface of an old grass field in that parish, when being drained. They consist of a necklace, three fibulæ, and three hooks-and-eyes, from a Saxon interment. The bones were reduced to powder, but a few teeth were preserved. The necklace consists of seventy beads, varying in size from a peppercorn to one and a-half inch in diameter, and of various shapes. The largest are of glass, or crystal, and amber; the smallest, of semi-transparent blue glass. Others are like red pottery inlaid with yellow and green; white, ornamented with red and blue; or black, with yellow and red. The two largest of the fibulæ are above four inches long. The hooks-and-eyes are of silver, the part for sewing them to the dress being large.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley read the following Paper, containing Abstracts of several Charters relating to Gracedieu Priory, Leicestershire, not noticed by either Dugdale or Nichols. He also exhibited some of the original documents, two of them from among the evidences of Lord Ferrers, who had kindly lent them. One has a large fragment of the Common seal remaining appendant. Mr. Gresley produced drawings of the Privy seal of the first Prioress, and of the Common or Chapter seal of the House; the former from the print of it in Nichols' Leicestershire,* the latter, hitherto, we believe, unpublished.

GRACEDIEU PRIORY.

The Priory of Gracedieu, in Latin "de Gratia Dei," was founded about 24 Hen. III. (A.D. 1239-40,) by lady Roesia de Verdun, of Alton Castle, Staffordshire, for Nuns of the Order of St. Augustine. It is not my intention here to repeat its fortunes and misfortunes, which may be found in the works of Nichols and Potter, but to

* West Gosc. Hund. Pl. lxxxvii., fig. 3.

mention some documents relating to it not to be found in our county histories, nor in the Monasticon.

The first four are very meagre abstracts of charters formerly among the evidences of my own family, a member of which, Agnes de Gresley, was the first prioress of the house. These I have taken from a manuscript in the Cheetham Library, at Manchester, frequently referred to by Nichols as "the Gresley Chartulary," being a collection of breviates of documents connected with that family, written probably late in the reign of Elizabeth. They are as follows:—

I. Between Agnes de Gresley, prioress of Grace-dieu of Belton, and sir William de Wasteneys of Osgodthorpe. An. 1262. (fol. 38.)

II. 1264, between the prioress of Grace-dieu and sir Thomas Wasteneys, before sir Martin de Littlebury, justice of our lord the king. At Turlington; Witness, Alan de Trenggiston. (fol. 33.)

III. Of the time of Henry the Fifth or Sixth.* Margaret Zouch, prioress of the holy and undivided Trinity of Grace-dieu, has received from William de Gresley, esq. (fol. 53.)

IV. "The second year of the regne of K. Richard the Third betwene Elizabeth Shyrbourne priores of the Blessed Trynitie of Gracedieu & her co^vent, & John Gresley, knight, lord of osgarthorpe, afore Katharen Hastings, lady of Hastings, wedow, Thomas Kebell, and others. The prioresse claymeth a yearly rent, the wch dame Rose of Verdun had of the gyfft of Willm Wasteneys, knight." (fol. 60.)

These documents appear to relate to the same thing, namely, a payment from Osgathorpe to the prioress, granted originally by William de Wasteneys, lord of Osgathorpe, the heiress of whose family, Thomazine, married, temp. Richard the Second, sir Nicholas de Gresley, whose heirs thus became liable to the payment.

V. Among the charters bequeathed in 1827 to the British Museum by Adam Wolley, Esq., of Matlock, Derbyshire, is one relating to Grace-dieu,† dated in the 53rd year of king Henry III., (A.D. 126$\frac{8}{9}$.) It is an agreement between Agnes de Gresley, prioress, and the convent, and Matthew de Chyneton (Kniveton, in Derbyshire,) before sir Gilbert de Preston, justiciary, and others, then at Derby; setting forth that as the entire land which Walter de Strettone formerly held of the house of Grace-dieu in the towns

* This appears to be an error: at any rate she was prioress 1 Hen. VIII.

† Wolley Charters, No. 6, 28. This agreement is mentioned in Nichols' Leicestershire, West. Gosc. Hund., p. 651.

of Bradlege and Surstant* had devolved into the hands of the said Matthew, and to Norman de Bigham and Henry de Hessebury, for homage, rents, and other services, the said prioress had conceded for herself and her successors that the said Matthew and his heirs might have the whole of the said land of the house of Gracedieu of Belton, freely and entirely as Walter de Strettone held it; rendering thence annually to the said prioress and convent twenty silver pennies annual rent at Bradelege, at the Feasts of St. John Baptist and St. Martin, for all services, &c., except those to the principal lord of the fee. And for the greater security, the said William bound the whole of his tenement at Bradlege and Surstant to the aforesaid prioress and convent, that they might be able to distress the said Matthew, his heirs, and assigns, as often as they should fail in the payment of the rent. In witness the parties alternately affixed their seals; these being witnesses,—sir Henry de Beo, knight, sir Peter de Too and Peter de Bakepuz, knights, Haytrop de Osomstone, Robert de Strettone, Richard Fitz Herby, Thomas Fitz Herbert of Somersall, and Richard his brother, and others.

No seal remains.

VI. Among some "Ecclesiastical Charters" published in 1840 by the Camden Society (p. 66) is one which the editor ascribes to "probably about A.D. 1250:"—Agnes de Grisele, prioress de Gratia Dei, and the nuns of the same place, by the unanimous consent of their whole chapter, concede to John de Verdun, their advocate, and his heirs, that whensoever any prioress of their house shall quit her office, they will not elect a successor without his license; and that when they shall have elected a successor, they will present her to the said John for him to present. And that if the said John or his heirs shall happen to be in parts beyond sea, that then the seneschal of the said John, or the constable of Alton, shall be in place of him. In testimony whereof, to this writing "our seal together with the seal of our chapter" is appended. Witnesses, sir Thomas de Chawrthe, sir William de Wasteneys, sir Robert de la Warde, Robert Malishonerise, Robert de Stapeltone, Ricard de Navisby, and many others.

You will observe in this charter that two seals are mentioned,—the privy-seal of the prioress, and the common seal of the chapter. It appears, however, from the editor's note, that only one was actually appended, but not which of them.

This John de Verdun was the son and heir of the foundress and her husband Theobald de Boteler; but he kept, it appears, his mother's name. It was probably after her death in 1248 that this charter was made, confirming his mother's rights to him as their founder and patron.

* Sturston, a hamlet of Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

VII. The editor mentions another instrument which illustrates the preceding charter. It was then in the same collection of documents, but is now in my possession, and before you. It is addressed to the illustrious and noble sire [domino] John Merbiry, esq., by his devoted bead-women, lady Alice Mortun, sub-prioress, and the convent of the house or priory of the Holy Trinity of Grace-dieu, of the Order of St. Augustine, informing him of the death of lady Margaret de Rempstone, late prioress, on the 2nd of April, 1418: that lest the priory should too long lament its widowhood, they had elected in the chapter-house as her successor lady Alice Dunwych, their treasuress, a woman provident, discreet, and learned, to be commended for her good deeds, of lawful age and legitimate birth, circumspect in both spiritual and temporal affairs, of the Regular Order of St. Augustine, professed in their house, and able to defend the rights of the priory: which said Alice, thus canonically elected, they presented to his reverence by William Sumpter, their messenger in the Lord for this purpose, humbly beseeching him to grant his assent to the said Alice, and to direct letters patent concerning all these things to the reverend father in Christ lord Phillip, by the Grace of God bishop of Lincoln, their diocesan. Given in their chapter-house, under their common seal, on the 8th day of the month and A.D. aforesaid.

A fragment of the seal remains.

Here we find that the patronage of the priory had passed from the Verduns to John Merbury, esq. Theobald de Verdon, the last of that name, dying in 1316, left three daughters, of whom Margery, the youngest, born 1310, married, for her third husband, sir John Crophull, knight, of Sutton Bonnington, Nottinghamshire, who died 1384. In 1356, it was found to be of no damage to the king or any other, if the king gave leave to sir John de Crophull, knight, and Margaret his wife, to enfeoff Ralph de Crophull, parson of Cottingham, and Richard de Makkeley, clerk, in the advowson of the priory de la Grace-dieu.* They had a son and heir, sir Thomas Crophull, whose daughter and heir, Agnes, married first sir Walter Devereux, by whom she had a son, Walter Devereux. She afterwards became the second wife of sir John Merbury, knight, and died 1435 seized of the advowson of the priory.†

The second Walter Devereux above-named, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter and heir of the said sir John Merbury by a former wife, left a son, Walter, who married Anne, sole daughter and heir of William lord Ferrars, of Chartley, and was summoned to parliament as lord de Ferrars. Their grandson, Walter Devereux, appears to have been the patron of Grace-dieu priory at the time of its suppression by king Henry the Eighth; for the visitors

* Nichols' Leicestershire, West Goscote Hund. p. 652.

† Ibid, pp. 639, 640, 652. Guthlaxton Hund., pp. 117, 147, where Thomas Crophull is said to be "cousin and heir" to Sir John Crophull.

of the monastery, doctors Leigh and Layton, say,—"Fundator, dominus Ferys."*

VIII. By the Harleian charter, 44, D. 51, which is without date, the prioress and convent of Grace-dieu conceded and confirmed for ever to God and the church of the blessed Martial of Neuheus [Lincolnshire], that toft in the village of Limberge, which they had of the gift of Alice le Roch; which said toft lay near the toft of Hugh Fitz Lamber on the west side, according as was more fully set forth in the charter which the said abbot and convent had of the aforesaid Alice. In testimony whereof they appended their seal. Witnesses, Robert vicar of Kernigton and dean of Fordburgh, Lucar de Fontibus, John de Keleby, Hugh de Senerby, Geffrey de Kilmholm, and others.

A large portion of the seal remains in good preservation.

IX. I have two other charters (hitherto, I believe, unnoticed) to mention, both of them from the evidences of lord Ferrers at Staunton Harold, and which, by his kind permission, I am able to submit to your inspection.

They are both of the same date, Nov. 10th, 1 Hen. VIII., and therefore probably relate to an arrangement of property by which both parties were accommodated. One of them witnesses that Margaret Zowche the prioress, and the convent of Grace-dieu, conceded to Ralf Shyrley, knight, one virgate of land, with a toft and a croft in the ville and fields of Staunton Harolde, namely, that virgate, &c., which Alan, son of Richard Staunton by his charter aforetime gave them in pure and perpetual alms; to have and to hold the said virgate, &c., for ninety-nine years, rendering thence yearly to the prioress and convent one peppercorn, if demanded. In testimony whereof, to one part of these indentures remaining in the possession of the said Ralph, the prioress and convent affixed their common seal; and to the other part remaining in the possession of the said prioress and convent, the said Ralph affixed his seal. Given in their chapter house, November 10th, 1 Hen. VIII.

A portion of the common seal remains.

X. The other indenture made between the same parties witnesses, That the said Ralph Shyrley has conceded to the said prioress and convent and their successors, one half virgate of land, with tofts, and crofts, and appurtenances in the ville and fields of Osgathorpe, formerly John Herbert's, called "herbertes thing," and of old called "Reignolds londe;" To have and to hold the said

* Nichols' Leicestershire, West Gosc. Hund. p. 652. Nicholas's Synopsis of the peerage, vol. i., p. 230.

half virgate, &c., for ninety-nine years, rendering thence annually to the said Ralph and his heirs one peppercorn, if demanded, and to the chief lord of that fee the accustomed rents and services thence due. And if it should happen that the said prioress and convent should be hindered in the profitable possession of the said half virgate, &c., by the said Ralph, then the said Ralph grants that it shall be lawful for the said prioress to enter upon one virgate of land, &c., [viz., that leased to sir Ralph by the preceding instrument] and to repossess and enjoy it. In testimony whereof the seals of the parties were appended to each part of the indenture, as in the former instance. Given at Staunton Harold, November 10th, 1 Hen. VIII.

No seal remains upon the vellum label, nor is there any appearance of one having ever been affixed to it.

From the documents now enumerated we learn the names of four prioresses of Grace-dieu not recorded by Nichols nor in the Monasticon.

Margaret de Rempstone, died 2 April, 1418.
Alice Dunwich, elected 8 April, 1448.
Elizabeth Shyrbourne, 2 Ric. III.
Margaret Zowche, 10 Nov., 1 Hen. VIII.

I observed that to the charter printed by the Camden Society the seal of Agnes the prioress and the seal of the chapter are both said to be appended. Of these seals, but from other charters, I have brought drawings.* It is plain, from the early English character of the architecture of the canopies upon them, and from other seals of acknowledged date, that they are both coeval with the foundation of the priory. They are very similar in general design, being oval in shape, with a seated figure under a canopy, and below this a person kneeling. On the seal of the prioress is the Blessed Virgin with our Lord. On that of the chapter is (apparently) a bishop; his right hand is uplifted, as giving the benediction; a book is in his left, and on his head seems to be a mitre, the *infulæ*, or pendant bands of which, appear on each side above the shoulders. Below him, under a second canopy, is a kneeling figure, which we should expect to represent Roesia de Verdun, with her charter of foundation in her hand; but the person has the appearance of an ecclesiastic.

The drawing of the seal of the prioress is copied from a print in the rare volume of Nichols' Leicestershire,† who took it from a charter then in the possession of Lord Ferrers, but which I could not meet with at Staunton when I searched for it last summer. The other of the chapter or common seal, hitherto I believe unpublished, is from a drawing by Howlett in my possession, taken in

* Vide Nos. 8 and 9 Plate facing page 21.
† West Goscote Hundred, pl. lxxxvii, fig 3.

1823, from an impression in red wax attached to the deed of the surrender of the priory in the Augmentation Office, dated Oct. 27th, 30 Henry VIII., A D. 1538; with some deficiencies supplied from the impressions to lord Ferrers' and the Harleian charters, and from a cast by Mr. Doubleday.

December 31*st*, 1855.

E. B. HARTOPP, Esq. in the chair.

Letters were read from Sir Henry Dryden, Bart., Mr. M. H. Bloxam, and the Revs. J. L. Petit, and G. A. Poole, expressing their gratification on being elected honorary members of the society.

Mr. Warren Lindley was elected a member; and Mr. Alfred Ellis added to the committee.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Council of the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, for a present of their volume of Papers and Report for the year 1855.

A Memorial was read and signed, addressed to the Treasury respecting the sale of the important collection of London Antiquities formed by Mr. C. Roach Smith, and now to be disposed of. It was stated that they had been offered to the Treasury for £3000.; but the purchase having been declined, they are now to be dispersed by public auction. The object of the memorial was to urge the importance of the entire collection being secured for the benefit of the nation.

It having been explained that Mr. Gresley's Paper upon Croyland Abbey could not accompany the Report, &c., of the Society in the collected volume of "Transactions," a resolution was passed that, with the writer's permission, it should be printed for the members in accordance with Rule 15.

The committee meetings in future were fixed for half-past twelve o'clock.

The Rev. R. Burnaby exhibited a rosary of glass beads and metal, and a small crucifix of mother-of-pearl.

Mr. T. Nevinson exhibited an ancient pair of oak bellows, having a coat of arms with supporters, helmet, and crest carved upon one side of them, apparently foreign.

Mr. Gresley produced a massive gold signet ring, weighing 16dwt. 17gr., engraved with a cross, and the letters R. S. It was discovered in 1847, during the excavations for the Syston and Peterborough railway, on the site of the Benedictine Nunnery at Stamford. The navvy who found it sold it to a brother labourer for sixpence, by whom it was disposed of again for ten shillings.

Mr. Gresley also exhibited an heraldic manuscript volume containing drawings of the armorial bearings and seals of the town of

Leicester, followed by those of the nobility and gentry of the county, in the year 1619, when W. Camden, Clarencieux, made a Visitation of Leicestershire by his deputies Sampson Lennard, Bluemantle, and Augustin Vincent, Rouge Rose, Pursuivants. It commences,—"These are the armes and towne Seales vsed by the maio^{r} and B . . . . . of the Boroughe of Leicester, which now is in Corporated by the n . . . of Mayor, Baylies, and Burgesses of the said Boroughe of Lei . . . . . , and Enabled with Manie great preiuledges and large Mounimentes [by] Manie of The aunciente Kinges of Englande, and Since Confermed And enlarged by Kinge James that now is ded. Of which Saide borogh at the tyme of this present Visitation, viz: 23 Septembris, 1619, was Maio^{r} of the sad Towne, Nicholas Gillott; and Will. Morton Willm Tue, Thomas Erick, and Tho: Pusey, were Justes of the peace within the sad Borighe; & John Willney and William hunt, Barliffe there; and John Freeman, Steward; John Tattan and John Norrice, Chamb'lains; and Fraunces haruie esqe: Sirgante of the Lawe, Recorder of the sad Borough. Which sad Francis harui is since one of the Justices of his Maujesties Co^{rt} of Cher place [?] and Westmi'."

Among the armorial bearings are those of Hartopp, Abney, Appleby, Sherard, Hazlerigg, Pochin, Keble, Belgrave, Farnham, Danvers, Dixie, Cave, Beaumont, Brudnell, and Beresford. Interspersed are short pedigrees; also, notices of the period when the grants or confirmations of the arms were made, and the names of the heralds who granted or confirmed them. From page 52 to 100 is a collection of miscellaneous arms of a later date, followed by the armorial bearings of the city of London, and about eighty of the various companies of tradesmen.

Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society.

February 25th, 1856.

The Rev. G. E. Gillett in the chair.

A letter was read from the Treasury in reply to the Memorial sent by the Society, stating that the authorities at the British Museum having been consulted respecting the purchase of the London Antiquities offered for sale by Mr. C. Roach Smith, it had been determined to decline that gentleman's offer at the price required.

The Secretary informed the meeting that the Rev. J. L. Petit had presented to the Library of the Society copies of his valuable illustrated works, "Remarks on Church Architecture," 2 vols., 1841, and "Architectural Studies in France," 1854. A vote of thanks was passed to the author for his kindness.

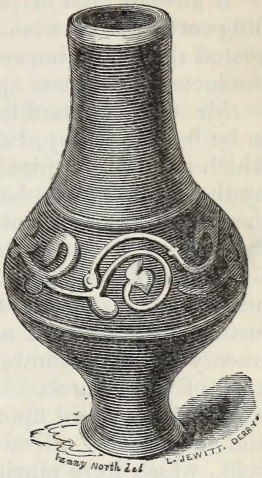
The Revs. M. Osborn, rector of Kibworth, W. B. Moore, vicar of Evington, G. Knight, vicar of Hungerton; and Messrs. J. T. Woodhouse, of Over Seile, and G. C. Neale, were elected members. Mr. Osborn and Mr. Neale were added to the Committee.

The Secretary complained that several subscriptions due for 1855 still remained unpaid.

Mr. Thompson expressed a wish that something could be done in order to the Society's opinion being taken upon designs for new churches, schools, &c. He mentioned an instance in which a subscription had been given or promised to a new school, upon condition that the designs should be laid before the Society, but at present they had not appeared. Mr. Denton alluded to the new church intended to be built at Blackfordby. He said that it was in contemplation to build it of brick. This several members thought would be objectionable and prove very unsatisfactory, unless carried out with stone quoins.

Mr. G. H. Nevinson exhibited some encaustic tiles and fragments of stained glass discovered at Leicester Abbey, and read an interesting paper upon the supposed site of the Monastic Church, which he purposed to continue at a future meeting.

Mr. Thompson exhibited a Roman jar of the description known as an unguent jar, of Castor ware, found in the neighbourhood of Leicester. The height of it is about four inches, and the sides are ornamented with a wavy pattern of a lighter coloured clay than the jar itself. He also produced the bronze head of a Roman spear about five inches in length, from Skeffington, Leicestershire.



Roman Jar.

Mr. Bellairs exhibited a metal tablet, about eight inches long by five wide, with a representation of the Adoration of the Shepherds, one of whom carried bagpipes. In the background is a porch of Italian architecture, upon which is inscribed the maker's name, PARM. INVENT.; and in another place is the date 1561. Probably it once formed the side of the binding of a religious book.

Mr. Gresley exhibited a sketch of a stone coffin recently discovered in Lichfield Cathedral, and a portion of coarse brown woollen cloth found in it, in which had been buried one of the bishops of Lichfield and Coventry. Mr. Gresley proceeded to shew that this was Bishop Alexander de Savensby, or Stavenby, (who died A.D. 1238,) buried in the habit of the Franciscan Friars, of whom he was a patron.

It was resolved that each member attending the Committee Meetings be requested to bring with him for exhibition some object of interest or curiosity; together with an account of the same in writing, in order that it may be properly described in the minutes of the Society: and that this resolution be printed with the circulars calling the meetings.

April 28th, 1856.

THE Rev. G. E. Gillett in the chair.

A letter was read from the Rev. T. James, stating that it was in contemplation to have a joint meeting of the Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, St. Albans, and other Architectural Societies at St. Albans in June. It was resolved by the Committee that, in consideration of the distance, it would not be advisable for them to join, as a Society, in the proposed arrangements; but that any members of the Leicestershire Society who might be desirous of attending could do so upon signifying their wishes to the Secretary.

A design for the new Town Hall at Rugby by Mr. Millican was exhibited.

A ground plan of proposed alterations in the Church of Theddingworth, Leicestershire, was considered. The Committee suggested that some improvement might be made in the position of the lectern and seats against the Chancel Arch.

Mr. Goddard laid before the Committee plans of a new Church to be built at Kilby, Leicestershire, and drawings of the old one, which is falling to pieces. Several improvements were considered by the Committee to be very desirable; *e.g.* that all the best part of the Church should not be occupied by the appropriated pews, but that at least a portion there should be left free; and also that a row of seats immediately in front of the Chancel should be removed, and instead of them that the seats in the nave should be extended further eastward. If a little variety could be introduced into the tracery of the windows it would much improve the general appearance of the Church.

Mr. Gillett laid upon the table plans and elevations of cottages, and several very effective architectural drawings, by W. J. Gillett, Esq., which were much admired.

Mr. Thompson exhibited a collection of Roman antiquities recently discovered at Hallaton, Leicestershire; and also some Anglo-Saxon weapons and ornaments of a female found at North Luffenham, Rutlandshire. The description of these, read by Mr. Thompson, was as follows:—

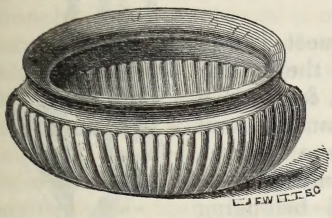
ROMAN AND ANGLO-SAXON ANTIQUITIES.

I HAVE to lay before the Committee two small collections of antiquities. The first consists of relics of the Roman inhabitants of Leicestershire, during the period when this island was under the sway of that people. The articles about to be exhibited were found in the neighbourhood of Hallaton, on land belonging to Mr. Simkin, and near to the property of Lord Berners, close to the "Ram's Head Spinney." They are varied in character, and their discovery is a novelty in our archæological experiences in Leicestershire. The relics may be classified according to the materials of which they are composed.

Lachrymatory or Unguentaria, half size of original.

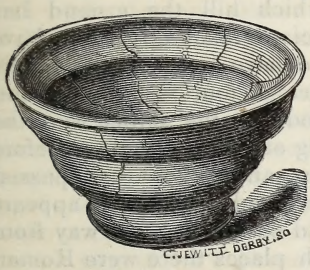
First, I will mention the vessels and fragments of glass. Of these three are lachrymatories—small bottles so called from the supposition that the tears of mourners were collected in them, at the burial of the dead in Roman times. One of these is complete—the other two are the bulbs only of the bottles. The Abbé Cochet, in his valuable work on *La Normandie*

Souterraine, states that these vessels were formerly used as perfume bottles, and he mentions that one he discovered in a Roman cemetery at Cany was filled with an oily liquor: while another, of bronze, when brought to light still exhaled the odour of an ancient perfume. Next to the lachrymatories, I notice the fragments of ribbed glass. They form portions of a vessel which probably resembled in shape our modern basins, and were used for some domestic purpose. The glass, after being washed, looks as sound and fresh as if made yesterday.* A third description of glass is the fragment of a long-necked bottle of a deep blue colour, with a portion of its handle in the peculiarly Roman form. A similar vessel was found at Cany, still full of some liquid, among others designed for funereal libations. The lachrymatories are more common in interments of the Lower Empire than those of a previous date.



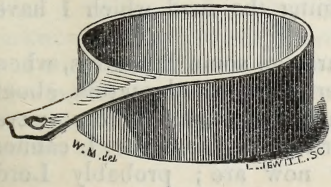
Vessel of ribbed glass (restored).

Next to the glass may be named the articles of clay. They are pateræ of various forms; but they are in a fragmentary condition, having been patched together from the broken bits. These, though generally known as pateræ, evidently divide themselves into two classes, nearly resembling our teacups and saucers. The polish is worn off in most cases. Enough remains, however to show the elegant outlines and fine character of the ware. No maker's names are discoverable. All resemble articles found in the Roman cemeteries of Normandy.



Patera.

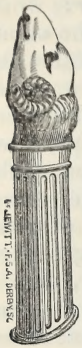
The novelties in this discovery are a patella of bronze, handles of vessels of some kind, a three-mouthed fragment, and small portions of the rims and bottoms of other vessels. I cannot but think the patella was intended for sacrificial purposes—was used to pour libations on the sacrifices as they were burning on the altar. The three-mouthed vessel may have contained incense; but I must confess ignorance respecting its proper use.



Patella of bronze.

* The complete shape is here given in order to shew the form of the object when perfect.

One handle is heavy, owing to its internal rod of iron, which is cased in bronze. At the end will be found the figure of a ram's head. The other handle presents the figure of a youth dancing.



Mr. Charles Simkin has favoured me with the following account of the discovery :—

"Agreeably to your request, I send you a few particulars as to the finding of the Roman Earthenware, &c., and a short description of the country round the place where they were buried. They were discovered by some drainers in December last, on land belonging to Mr. Simkin, in the parish of Hallaton, at a point where the parishes of Hallaton, East Norton, and Keythorpe meet, about one mile east of the seat of Lord Berners; they were buried about two feet below the surface, about half way up a steep hill, facing to the south, on the summit of which hill the ground has evidently been disturbed, and two ancient roads appear to have crossed at that point. They appear to have been placed in the ground separately, and occupied a space of four feet by two, and had evidently been covered over by wood; in the skillet were the remains of bones, mixed with something of a dark colour. Before the enclosure of the parish of Hallaton, an ancient road passed close to the spot where the articles were found. This road appears to have been very much used, and would be the nearest way from Medbourn to Burrow, at both of which places there were Roman Stations; and on all the highest hills between those two places there are evidently traces of entrenchments, which from their form appear to be Roman; particularly those at Hallaton and Tilton, at the former of which places Roman coins have been found, and at a distance from the village, adjoining the road which I have mentioned.

"On enquiry, I find that a few years ago some labourers, when digging on land belonging to Lord Berners, for a plantation, about four hundred yards from the place where these bronzes, &c., were found, discovered a quantity of curious articles, but I cannot ascertain in whose possession they now are; probably Lord Berners may have them.

"I intend to make further search on the spot, and will let you know the result."

The various articles are so fragile that I have placed them on a separate table to remove the necessity of handling them. [Here the articles were exhibited.]

Very different from the Roman remains are the next which I have the pleasure of bringing under your notice. And here I may remark that we gather more vivid notions of the condition of the ancients from a contemplation of their material works, than we can from any amount of book reading. In the productions of Roman artists—in their elegant vases and fictile ware, their ornamented bronzes, and their ribbed and coloured glass—we feel we are brought into contact with a race as far advanced as ourselves in many of the arts, whose luxurious homes were adorned with all that confers grace and refinement on daily life. But how great is the transition from Roman to Anglo-Saxon antiquities! The various objects we have just examined create an impression of the peaceful, the tranquil, the regular enjoyment of existence and security—when secluded rural villas were the abodes of people familiar as we moderns are with much that imparts to life its charm and its comfort. In the remains of the early Anglo-Saxons we observe, on the contrary, an absence of the graceful and the beautiful; but the presence of all that is hard, stern, and savage. Their ornaments resemble the trinkets of the wandering gipsy—their jars the vessels on which he cooks his meal over his camp fire; while they are almost invariably accompanied in the graves of this people with the sword, the spear, the knife, and the shield of the warrior. From these remains we receive evidence unavoidable that the earlier Anglo-Saxon led a predatory life, lived with his arms in his hands, and died dreaming of the halls of Odin, where braves quaffed mead from the skulls of their foemen, at banquets ever renewed, and their joys were felt in the clash of swords and the rustle of spears. If there be a touch of taste, it is in the ornaments of the women; but nought else is lighted up with a spark of grace or enlivened by a gleam of beauty. Between the days when the former possessors of the articles just inspected were settled on the soil, and the days when the Anglo-Saxons came, we cannot fail from these remains to infer, that an interval of violent and bloody strife must have elapsed, during which the Roman villas were deserted, and their owners fled in dismay, a flood of darkness and barbarism meanwhile inundating the land.

I will now illustrate these observations by first describing and then producing the articles found at North Luffenham, and politely forwarded for exhibition to this Committee by Mrs. Morris. The articles are:

1. A sword blade, completely rusted, measuring two feet six inches in length. It was made for cutting and thrusting, and was double-edged.

2. A spear head, with a long shaft, and the ferule, both completely oxydized. The Saxon spear was usually seven or eight feet long.

3. A knife, also rusted. This was an invariable accompaniment of an Anglo-Saxon's spear.

4. The umbo of a shield. This part of the Saxon's armour was generally laid flat over the middle of the corpse.

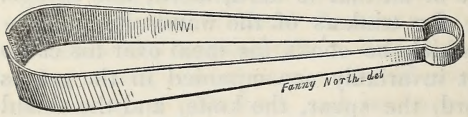
5. A skull, found with the weapons. It is of the elongated form of the Teutonic race, differing from the rounder shape of the Celtic cranium. Various teeth were found near the skull, and their state of wear and decay proves them to have been those of a person of advanced age.

6. A jar, blackened by exposure to the action of fire, and which seems to have been used for culinary purposes. Similar vessels are said to be commonly found at the feet of the skeletons disinterred.

7. A cinerary urn, of dark clay, rude in shape and badly baked.

8. Fibulæ of various shapes, all peculiar to the inhabitants of the Midland and part of the Northern counties.

9. Tweezers and ear-pick. These are supposed to have been suspended from the girdle of the Anglo-Saxon female, in the same way as the *chatelaine* of modern times is sometimes worn by ladies. These articles seem to be of gold.



Tweezers, two-thirds of actual size.

10. The necklace. This is not so fine a specimen as the necklace found at Beeby, and forwarded for exhibition by Mr. Marriott of that place, at our last autumnal meeting; but it is of the same class. The amber bead was supposed to have operated as a charm in protecting its wearer from the evil spirit.

There are other trifling articles not requiring special mention. All of them are very perishable, and will scarcely admit of being taken up for close examination.

I now have to read the account of the discovery, kindly furnished by Mrs. Morris.

"I have much pleasure in giving you all the information in my power, relative to the Anglo-Saxon antiquities found in our neighbourhood. The remains were discovered in the spring of 1855, on the right hand side of the road leading from North Luffenham to the village of Edith Weston (which is a mile distant), in a sand pit, on a piece of ground belonging to Mr. Morris. The road is rather lower than the field, which rises gradually on each side of it, and is open field land, ploughed and sown with a succession of crops; so that heavy implements, such as rollers and waggons, in harvest time have passed over it many hundreds of times. The surface is uniformly level for more than half a mile, and there is no inequality to mark the site of a burial ground. In the place where

the remains were found, is a fine bed of white sand, which a gentleman connected with a glass manufactory, who saw it a short time ago, told us was of excellent quality for that purpose, and far surpassed what was ordinarily used. It is dug by us for building purposes. Four or five skeletons, with the same number of fibulæ and a quantity of beads were found first, about one foot and a-half below the surface; also, two or three jars. I knew nothing about the discovery, till I accidentally met the cart going to the railway station, when one of the men told me they had found a quantity of bones, and had taken a great many, mixed with sand, in a former cart load. I stopped to examine it, and he picked out several pieces of jars, and he gave me three or four fibulæ, which I kept, and also some beads. They said that the jars and bones were all broken; their nearness to the surface, and the ploughs and heavy waggons having passed so closely over them, would account for their being in that state. The man who took up the jars said that two of them held skulls, but they broke to pieces as they were touched. I thought he must be mistaken. I told the men to be very careful in future, and bring me everything they found. I went there and stayed several hours one day, but nothing was then found. Afterwards, when digging further on to the eastward, about six yards from the spot where the first four were discovered, they found two more skeletons about six feet below the surface,—the skulls and some of the bones of which I send you; also, the sword, &c., which was found near one; the arrow heads and the spear head were found all together, and near the other, with one of the handsomest of the fibulæ. I think each skeleton had a fibula, and some beads were scattered about. A flat stone was placed over each; they were very near together. Stones were over the four first also, which were found near the surface, about sixteen inches square; one evidently bore marks of the action of fire—the little bit at the top of the box is part of it. The two jars were met with at the depth of six or seven feet; they were full of sand and *dark coloured earth*, of which there is nothing like near, as it is all sand. When the two lowest skeletons were disturbed, a strong ammoniacal smell proceeded from them; and when Mr. Morris went afterwards on horseback, the horse showed strong signs of disgust, and resolutely refused to go up to the sand pit, though he was in the habit at other times.

"The first skeletons found were about a foot, or a little more apart, but the men did not take exact notice. Probably there were more than four, as they took two cart loads with many bones, before I saw them; and they were quite ignorant of the nature of the place. The jars were not very near the last two skeletons; the fibulæ and beads were found with the skeletons both times, and I imagine each skeleton had its fibula and necklace of beads. Probably there were many more beads lost. I have sent you all

the remains; though, perhaps, you will think some hardly worth sending, but you will be able to judge of the state in which they were found. The skeletons crumbled to pieces, so that the men found it very difficult to preserve or carry them."

It seems exceedingly probable the two modes of interment—cremation and burial—were followed at the same time on the spot where the remains were met with; and I think many other graves may yet exist not far from those which have been opened. I may also notice that there is a marked resemblance in all these Anglo-Saxon antiquities to the antiquities discovered in the graves of the ancient Franks in Normandy; and this reference reminds me I may appropriately conclude with the Abbé Cochet's observations on the meaning associated with the burial of these objects with the dead. He says the people of pagan times discriminated with difficulty between the body and the soul. For example, the Gallo-Romans had such a faith in a second material life that they lent money to their friends on condition that the latter would return it to them in the other world!

"We may easily conceive, then," says the Abbé, "that under the dominion of this idea, pagans would be lavish towards their dead. But it is what the Christian of to-day, so far removed from the faith of the pagans, does not comprehend. So great a moral revolution has been accomplished in the course of eighteen centuries, that the ideas of the present no longer explain the actions of the past. The distance separating Paganism from Christianity is immeasurable: one doctrine is all sensual, the other all spiritual. * * * To man spiritualized the body is nothing, the soul is everything. But the riches of the soul are not matter: the child of heaven requires here below only prayers and sacrifices. From this moment, no more funeral provision [mobilier funèbre]; no longer anything but the cold stone of the tomb."

The Rev. J. M. Gresley exhibited the official seal (a brass matrix) of the Rev. Luke Cotes, Dean of the Collegiate Church of Middleham, Yorkshire, from 1719 to 1741, some account of whom may be found in the volume upon that establishment, published by the Camden Society in 1847.—*Introduction, pp.* 31-36. The legend upon the seal is ✠ LVCAS · COTES · A.M. · ECCLESIÆ · COLLEGIA : DE · MIDDLEHAM · DECANVS · In the centre is a cross with these words arranged about it—IN HAC VINCIT,—GLORIA MILITIS XIANI. This matrix was recently purchased in a Shoemaker's shop at Keswick, by C. Gresley, Esq.

A Vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Thompson for his very interesting Paper, and to the persons who had kindly intrusted to him the Roman and Anglo-Saxon antiquities for exhibition.

June 30*th*, 1856.

The Rev. R. Burnaby in the chair.

The Rev. J. H. Hill was elected a member of the Society.

A financial committee was appointed to prepare a statement of the accounts for the past year.

It was resolved that notice of future meetings of the committee should be given by advertisements in the Leicester Papers.

The neighbourhood of Melton Mowbray was fixed upon for the annual excursion of the Society in preference to Ashby de la Zouch: and a sub-committee (consisting of Messrs. W. Latham, G. H. Nevinson, J. Thompson, V. Wing, and the Secretaries) was appointed for making the requisite arrangements for the annual meeting.

The Rev. J. Denton exhibited a sheet of drawings by the Rev. W. H. Coleman of third brass Roman coins of the Emperor Gallienus, Victorinus, Tetricus, and Claudius, in the third century. They were discovered in 1818, about a mile north east of Ashby de la Zouch, upon a high point of ground in the Lawn Hills, by some labourers who were ploughing. The plough struck the brass rim of the larger of two urns which were filled with them. The field is now called "Money Hill." This discovery may indicate the route of the Roman Via Devana from Colchester to Chester, which has not yet been satisfactorily traced across the western part of Leicestershire and the adjacent parts of Derbyshire and Staffordshire.

Mr. T. Nevinson exhibited some fragments of stained glass from Bottesford church: among them were the head of an ecclesiastic with a nimbus, and a hand of good execution.

Mr. Neale exhibited several crown pieces of the seventeenth, eighteenth, and present centuries, all in excellent preservation, some of them being proofs. The die of the crown piece of Oliver Cromwell, executed by the celebrated artist Thomas Simon, (the engraver of the valuable Petition-Crown of king Charles the Second) broke after a few had been struck; and by careful observation a line or crack may be seen across the neck. The art of coin engraving retrograded rather than advanced through several subsequent reigns; and probably but little improvement can be observed until the crown piece of George the Third, produced by that justly celebrated artist Pistrucci, whose name in small letters appears on its obverse and reverse. The crown piece of Anne and George the First were struck from silver found in Wales, and therefore bear on the reverse the Feathers, the cognizance of the Prince of Wales. The crown piece of queen Victoria may perhaps, from its richness of design and artistic skill, be pronounced a work of unrivalled beauty.

Mr. Gresley exhibited four signet rings. One of brass, found a

few weeks ago at the Short Heath, Over Seile, Leicestershire, had the arms of the Commonwealth rudely engraved upon it, the cross of S. George impaling the harp of Ireland. Two others of silver and one of brass, of the fourteenth or fifteenth centuries had the letters a, I, and R; the I and R being crowned. Examples of this kind of seal are engraved in Fisher's Antiquities at Stratford-upon-Avon.

July 21*st*, 1856.

Adjourned Committee Meeting, the Rev. R. Burnaby in the chair.

Arrangements were made for the Annual Meeting and Excursion, viz., on Tuesday, 9th September, a Public Meeting in the New Hall, Leicester, at two o'clock; after which a temporary museum to be there opened; an ordinary at the Bell Hotel at six o'clock; an evening meeting at eight o'clock for the reading of papers.

On the following day an Excursion to be made from Leicester to Melton Mowbray, visiting Kirby Bellers, Great and Little Dalby, Burrow Hill, and Burton Lazars.

August 25*th*, 1856.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley in the chair.

The Rev. R. Burnaby, Mr. G. H. Nevinson, and Mr. G. C. Bellairs, were added to the Committee appointed to make arrangements for the Annual Meeting on the 9th and 10th of September, a programme of which has been sent to each member of the Society.

Some conversation took place respecting the rebuilding of the church of Humberstone, which is now in contemplation under the direction of Mr. Brandon, architect, in consequence of an opinion being expressed that this church might be *restored* instead of being rebuilt. The Committee were unanimous in thinking that the demolition of our ancient ecclesiastical buildings, unless positively unavoidable, is extremely to be regretted.

At the suggestion of the Rev. S. G. Bellairs, it was resolved that members of the Society be invited to contribute photographs, sketches, &c., in Leicestershire, and that a book be purchased for the purpose of preserving such contributions.

Mr. G. C. Bellairs exhibited some coins, among which was a scarce denarius of Antoninus found near the Foss Way at Narborough: obverse, the head of the emperor, circumscribed, ANTONINVS. AVG. PIVS. S.P.P.; reverse, a female, standing, holding a rudder, COS. IIII. Also several deeds of the thirteenth

century from the muniment room of the Corporation of Leicester, abstracts of which he is engaged in taking. They consist chiefly of grants to the Corporation, and among the witnesses to them occur the names of many ecclesiastics, city officers, and members of the ancient town and county families.

Mr. Neale exhibited proofs of the Barbadoes penny and halfpenny; obverse, the bust of a negro in profile with a plume of feathers—reverse, king George the Third in the character of Neptune, seated in a car drawn by sea horses : a noble of Edward the Third, a good specimen of his fourth coinage (nobles of his second and third coinages, weighing some grains heavier than his fourth, are rare: the coin has 𝔈 in the centre of the reverse, the former ones have 𝔏, for London) : an Angel of Henry the Eighth, a scarce coin, having an amulet "or gun hole" in the side of the ship, mint mark, a fleur-de-lis: a milled shilling of Elizabeth, in very fine preservation, from the Bentham cabinet, mint mark, a mullet of six points.

Mr. Nevinson exhibited a specimen of Etruscan ware, ornamented with a winged figure: a drawing of the monument of a priest in Castle-Donington church: and a facsimile of the name of Bradshaw, the regicide, cut or scratched (among those of other parliamentarians) upon the right leg of the alabaster effigy of Robert Hasylrig, esq., in the same church; thus,—"Bradshaw februr 20 1655 Memento Mei Hic Scripsit."

Mr. Gresley exhibited an old watch, of open filagree work in silver; a representation of which is given on plate xxxiv of the first volume of prints issued in 1855 by the Anastatic Drawing Society. Also, the ornamented handle of (apparently) some cooking utensil of bronze, probably Saxon, found near the remains of an ancient kiln, discovered at Church Gresley, Derbyshire, in 1853.

September 9th, 1856.

ANNUAL MEETING.—NEW HALL, LEICESTER.

General Meeting, E. B. Hartopp, Esq., in the chair.

The Rev. Lord Alwyn Compton was elected an honorary member.

Mr. T. Ingram (Hon. Sec.) read the following Report:—

"Your Committee, at the close of the second year's existence of the Society, congratulate the members on its satisfactory condition. The number of subscribers continues to increase, and the operations of the Society have been steadily pursued during the

last year, the meetings of the Committee having been well attended, and produced much interest to the members.

"In order, however, to increase the efficiency of the Society's operations, the Committee recommend a few alterations in the Rules, and principally in Rule VIII., which it is proposed shall stand as follows:—

"'That meetings of the members be held the last Monday in every alternate month, and a General Meeting in each year, previous to the Public Meetings; and that at such General Meeting the Committee be elected, the Accounts be passed, and the yearly Report presented; and such new Rules, or alterations in the Rules, proposed and made, as may be thought necessary.'

"The Committee also recommend that Rules XI. and XII. be altered and amended as follows:—

"'XI.—That the Public Meetings of the Society be holden at such times and places as shall be appointed by the Committee.

"'XII.—That the Committee meet at the times and places which they themselves may appoint.'

"Your Committee record with regret the resignation of his office of Secretary by Mr. Ingram, to whom the Society is much indebted for his valuable and zealous services; but they think his place will be efficiently supplied by Mr. G. C. Bellairs, who has kindly consented to fill the vacant post."

The Rev. R. Stephens moved the adoption of the Report, which was seconded by Mr. G. C. Bellairs, and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Proceedings, Rules, and Objects of the Society be advertised in the public local papers under the direction of the Committee once a year.

The Treasurer's Accounts for the year were audited and allowed.

The Committee for the ensuing year were elected.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the business of the Meeting.

A Museum was opened in the New Hall, which contained a variety of objects of architectural and archæological interest, exhibited by many members and friends of the Society.

A Public Dinner took place at the Bell Hotel, and at eight o'clock in the evening a Public Meeting was held in the New Hall, the Rev. R. Stephens (in the absence of E. B. Hartopp, Esq.) in the chair. The Chairman called upon Mr. James Thompson to read a paper upon

LEICESTER CASTLE.

Mr. Thompson commenced by remarking that we have few Remains of Saxon defensive structures—our ancestors relying more upon the personal valour of their troops than upon fortified buildings.

It was doubtful whether anything in the shape of a donjon or castle-keep existed before the time of the Norman Invasion. Up to the time of Harold, the inhabitants of our towns enjoyed perfect liberty, and needed no defence in the shape of castles; but when the news of the invasion of William arrived, the dream of security was broken. Leicester, among other towns, was forced to submit to the Conqueror. The Normans and Saxons dwelt from henceforth in the same land as enemies, and from the disparity of numbers it became necessary for the Conquering Race to establish keeps in every part of the land. Such was the origin of Leicester Castle. It was not possible for us now to conceive the feelings with which our ancestors regarded the rising of its towers outside the city walls. After some fifty years the enmity between the races began to disappear, the proof of which, as it respected Leicester, was found in the Charter granted at that time by the Norman Earl, Robert de Bellomont, to the Burgesses, to elect a Council of twenty-four of their own number, and to gather wood in the Forest. This concession led to better feelings on the part of the people, and the garrison were no longer in danger of being murdered whenever absent after night-fall from the Castle, as formerly. The necessity of the solitary keep then no longer existed, and it became disused. The Castle, of which remains now exist, the Lecturer supposed, dated from the time of Stephen or Henry II. It was probable the building was founded in the former reign, that monarch having granted permission to his nobles to build castles, of which fifteen hundred availed themselves.

The Castle would no doubt share the fate of the Town at the siege of Leicester in 1173, when the city walls were undermined, and the keep would probably be overthrown. About 1240, Simon de Montfort became Earl of Leicester, and for twenty-five years the Castle was occupied by him and his retainers. In 1264, the first regal visit was made to the town, and no doubt the king would be entertained at the Castle. After the death of De Montfort in battle, the king conferred the earldom on his son, and this was the origin of the connection of the Castle with the House of Plantagenet, which subsisted for one hundred and thirty years, and during which period royal visits were frequently made to the town.

The Lecturer was of opinion that the whole of Saint Mary's graveyard must have been included within the Castle walls. On the site of the present Gate-house was probably a castellated entrance, approached by a drawbridge. At a very early date the Judges administered justice in the Hall of the Castle: the prisoners were confined within its walls, and convicts executed in the yard adjoining. Edward I. and Edward II. with their Queens were entertained in the Castle; and among other reminiscences, he remarked that Chaucer and Wycliffe would also be frequent guests. John of Gaunt probably died there, and Richard II. was brought

thither as a prisoner. Henry VI. held here his famous parliament, and in 1450 another parliament was held. In fact, during this period the Castle was more than a Baronial residence—it was the Palace of the Midlands. From the time of the Wars of the Roses the Castle ceased to figure in history. Its appearance was so reduced in the time of Leland, that he spoke of it almost contemptuously. In 1633, Charles I. addressed to W. Heyrick, Esq. orders to have the materials of the Castle sold, and the Castle-house repaired. He was charged, however, not to interfere with the vault, or the stairs leading to it. Mr. Heyrick, in reply, made a long return, in which, however, no mention was made of the ancient Assize-hall. The Castle house then included all the space between the south wall of St. Mary's and the present house. Ten years after occurred the famous siege, which no doubt considerably affected the remains of the Castle, though no record remained. After undergoing some other changes, to which allusion was made, in 1821 the division of the large hall was made for the purpose of legal trials, as it existed at the present time. This matter was left in the hands of a builder and his assistants, who had worked without anyone to direct them, and without any regard to the historical associations of the edifice. In drawing his remarks to a close, the Lecturer made some observations on the present boundaries of the Castle, so far as they can be traced. The Mount, he observed, still existed, as also the well which supplied the garrison when unable to leave the Castle. By far the most important remain of the Castle, however was the present Assize-hall, the only means of forming an idea of which, as it formerly existed, was a drawing made by Mr. H. Goddard, thirty-five years ago. The date of the building would be 1150. He proceeded to give some interesting architectural details, and in conclusion urged that the Hall, so eloquent in historic associations, should be preserved. He believed that if further mutilation were now proposed, even the Australian wanderer, who never hoped to see his native town again, would indignantly protest against it. It was, then, our duty to do all in our power to urge upon those in authority to save it from further spoliation.*

* "The Account of Leicester Castle," of which an abstract is here given, has been revised by the writer, and published in a separate form, with illustrations by J. H. Le Keux, one of which, by the kindness of Mr. Thompson, we are permitted to reproduce as a frontispiece to this volume. As very many changes have been made in the ancient Hall of the Castle since the above paper was read, and as many of its distinctive features are now destroyed, the memoir referred to, and especially its illustrations, are extremely valuable to all interested in the Civic Architecture of Leicester.—1862.

Mr. Millican, Architect, then read the following remarks on the

INTRODUCTION OF MOULDED AND COLOURED BRICK INTO STREET ARCHITECTURE.

THE remarks I am about to address to you have been rather hastily thrown together, so that I feel some apology is necessary for offering them to your notice this evening. Having been invited by the Committee of this Society to read a short paper, I have made choice of a subject which, though of so great importance as to demand for its *full* consideration *months* of untiring study, may be compressed within such limits as will render it admissible on this occasion, by merely examining its leading features, with a view rather to provoke discussion and enquiry, than to present you with lengthy details of the case, however elaborately collected, to the entire preclusion of the great advantages resulting from the expression of a variety of opinions.

My present purpose is to give a rapid sketch of the necessity for, and desirability of introducing (with a view to improvement) moulded and coloured brickwork into our present flat and lifeless street architecture, particularly the cottage buildings, which, from their plainness, are so undesirably abundant in Leicester and other manufacturing towns. You are doubtless aware that this our town stands on, and is surrounded by extensive beds of clay of the most excellent description, and of several varieties; but all equally adapted by nature for the purposes to which it is my present endeavour to promote their application, requiring only the assistance of man's hand, and the evidence of his mind impressed upon them—the life of the living clay infused into the shapeless mass of dead clay—to render that clay fit ornament for the cottages or palaces of men, or the adornment of temples even set apart for the worship of our Creator. Leicester, therefore, being undoubtedly possessed of the material (hitherto neglected) for supplying the lack of animation so deplorably prevalent throughout the brick buildings which line the streets, from the humble home of the toilsome artizan through whom her wealth is acquired, to the more aspiring and pretentious residence of the manufacturer, who seeks retirement from the hurry and turmoil of business, in the goodly squares and terraces which are rising in her suburbs; it becomes the part of man—of the artist, the architect, and the producer—to render it fit to be employed as ornament. It must, in fact, receive from man a portion of the life he has the power to impart to it. Is it, therefore, owing to the want of men who can impart *this life*, that the clay of Leicester has so long remained cold and inanimate? That this is not the case is most convincingly manifested by the beautiful carvings and other art works which have been and are

daily produced by natives of this town; though it is a source of regret that many of them have left the place of their birth, and the town which they would most gladly have decorated with the riches of their own imaginations, for *other places*, where the carver's art is—I will not say more fully appreciated—but more extensively encouraged; for artists of all kinds, though undoubtedly not the most mercenary of the human race, cannot live on the admiration alone of their genius and their works.

But further, the clay may be wrought in so simple a manner, as, the designed pattern having been once moulded, it may be multiplied to an unlimited extent by workmen of ordinary abilities, without requiring the aid of an artist, except in the invention of the original design; indeed, for this purpose, those workmen who are daily employed in casting in plaster and cement, the perishable ornaments with which so many of our public and private buildings are meritriciously decorated, might be induced to turn their attention to the production of ornament in *burnt clay*, that would be as lasting as the buildings in whose walls it might be imbedded. Having both the material and the artists necessary for its manipulation so plenteously provided to our hand, what (will be asked) is the reason we do not see so valuable a material properly applied, and its capabilities developed to their fullest extent? It is not that it is impracticable, for of the fallacy of this idea we have incontestable evidence in the great number of Italian buildings wholly indebted for their decoration to this neglected material, of which the Great Hospital at Milan is a surprising and magnificent example, its principle façade being covered with most elaborate and beautiful ornaments, foliage, heads, &c., &c.—rivalling the best sculpture in stone or princely marble. Hundreds of other existing specimens, too, will be found in "Street's Brick and Marble Architecture of Italy," from the plain square dentil (the humblest form of all) to the most beautifully enriched frieze or string course, alive with a spirited foliation, peeping at intervals from out of the shadow of the overhanging moulding, by which it is protected from accident or the tempest's unsparing influence. The *reason* is, I am reluctant to confess, the all-powerful utilitarian spirit of our age, which condemns tacitly (though, too frequently, not the less effectually) most things which will not afford either convenience or a profitable return on the outlay involved in their production; and as these are looked on as two indispensable requisites in the homes of the humbler classes (and other houses built for mere speculation), which are usually *run up* at the least possible outlay, to produce the greatest possible return; I fear to that engrossing spirit must we principally attribute the utter absence of redeeming features in the ugly blank walls, with square windows in them, which have grown to be considered the *ne plus ultra* of our street architecture. I need not, I am sure, occupy your time with a long

argument, endeavouring to prove that ornament is necessary, for that would be fruitless; but that if not necessary, it is at least desirable, you will, I am sure, on a little reflection, readily admit; for who, in the interior of his house—however sumptuous or however humble—would be satisfied without some attempt at decoration, either in furniture, pictures, or the innumerable trifles which form so unnecessary, yet so pleasing a part of our house attractions? Do not all, according to their means, aim at making the interiors of their homes more attractive than as the builders leave them? Is it not almost instinctive? for do not even insects and animals regard these matters in *their* architecture?

If, therefore, such additions are conducive to comfort or pleasure in the interior, why should they not be considered equally indispensable to, or why are they banished from, the exterior of our houses? It may be said, that we see more of the interior than the exterior, and that moreover all our friends become intimately acquainted with the former, and therefore we do all we can to make it attractive and pleasing, but surely we do not admit (as this argument implies) such a churlish and unsociable spirit, as, that we care to please no one but our friends, or to gratify any senses but our own? Is it not more praiseworthy to aim at making *that which is seen by everybody* admirable and attractive, than to confine our endeavours to those things which only ourselves and our friends see and enjoy? Others may advance, that it is folly to expose ornament to the ravages of time, accident, or the unruly elements; but does not nature, under the guidance of an indulgent Providence, teach such utilitarians a well-merited lesson in her own luxuriant ornamentation? Does she not lavishly bestow her most beautiful works in situations where they are inaccessible to all, save the soaring eagle, as well as in those within the reach and admiration of man? Are they not abundant in the fathomless ocean, and in the boundless prairie? and does she not expose her most richly coloured and most fragile production to the pelting rain and the sweeping tempest? Why, therefore, should vain man treasure up his feeble handiworks, which are but dross compared with the many tinted and everchanging flowers that he daily and hourly tramples so heedlessly beneath his feet, or gathers in wantonness, as though they were his own most trifling creations. That the spirit I am deprecating did not animate our ancestors, the interesting remains even of their domestic architecture most indisputably proves, as may be seen in Chester and other towns, both English and Foreign. If, therefore, you will admit the desirability of ornament on the *outside* as well as the *inside* of our buildings (and I cannot think many will deliberately dispute it), I will endeavour to shew in what manner and by what means it may be accomplished, not forgetting too the principal point—the expense. Those buildings wherein, from being of a temporary nature, or from their

purpose, ornament is needless, or thought to be so, the plain surfaces may be relieved—at literally no extra cost—by merely selecting bricks of different shades of colour, and placing them to form lines or patterns in the walls. It is true this would require a little thought, but considering what thought is wasted continually on schemes of folly, or dishonourable pursuits, surely that element will not be deemed too valuable to be made use of. In the next class of buildings, I would suggest that string courses and cornices may be introduced of different coloured or different shaped bricks and quarries, imbedded in the work, of which the additional cost would be so trifling as to be comparatively unappreciable. Beyond this stage we must venture into patterns of moulded and ornamented brickwork, either simple bricks with moulded ends, flat ornament produced by sinking the ground round the well-designed outline, or imitations of the productions of Nature herself, each and all of which (the design and model being once made) would be most easily multiplied, and at no more expense than in cement; only requiring that for general use, the mouldings and patterns should be of such sizes and character as would admit of their introduction into large as well as small buildings; also of several parts, in order that variety may be obtained in their disposition, and then would be opened a field for enduring and truthful decoration, the limits of which are not to be foreseen or prescribed.

The most ordinary workman, having them habitually under his notice, would acquire a facility and variety in their application, which even accomplished architects scarcely attain with the complex ornaments to which they have until lately been limited. The workmen, too, from having other than their physical abilities exerted, would be advanced to a more intellectual position than is now too generally their lot; acting as machines, building tasteless walls by mere mechanism, as it were, from morning till night, and from the morning to the evening of their existence.

Our streets, instead of being but gloomily fenced highways, to be trodden only for the convenience of business, or when paced in the pursuit of pleasurable companionship, to be hurried through without a glance of interest, would, with the improvement of public taste and spirit, become panoramas of the imagery of men's minds, and storehouses of thoughts and ideas as varied and valuable as they now are of objects unvarying and valueless. We should then linger as we passed along to mark where a more skilful hand had left its impress, or to recall possibly the memory of some of those who, having in their lifetime animated the lifeless earth, had sunk back into its cold solitude, leaving behind them these faithful witnesses of their superiority over the brutes that perish.

I cannot conclude without calling your particular attention to the beautiful manufactures of Messrs. Minton and Hollins, consisting of paving and other tiles, and mosaics, vieing with the

richest and best specimens of aniquity, both in tastefulness of design and brilliancy of colour, and which may be added to the more sober tinted clay, in the fronts of our buildings, to obviate, in part, that coldness and want of richness so very apparent in our northern climate, to those who have seen and revelled in the glorious tints everywhere pervading the picturesque scenery and the magnificent architecture of the sunny south.

Those who require practical illustration of the theory I have proposed, will find one in a house erecting by Mr. Broadbent, near to Humberstone, in which are introduced several of the modes of decoration that I have alluded to.

I will not trespass further on your time, but leave the subject open for discussion, only thanking you for your kind attention, and assuring you my labour has been amply repaid if I have caused any to give serious consideration to that which, at first sight, appears but trifling and unimportant.

THE "PILGRIM'S TOMB."

The Rev. J. M. Gresley, at the request of the Chairman, gave the following description of a remarkable Tomb in the Church at Ashby de la Zouch, known as "The Pilgrim's Tomb," illustrating his remarks by engravings, which the rev. gentleman distributed in the room.*

BENEATH the gallery in the north aisle of the Church of Ashby de la Zouch, a recumbent effigy of a Pilgrim is placed within a recess in the wall, surmounted by a depressed, ogee-shaped arch, crocketed on the exterior and cincquefoiled within, with two sets of hollow moulding, and flanked on each side of the arch by a buttress. This effigy (perhaps the only one of the kind in existence) deserves accurate examination. The Pilgrim is represented as bare-headed: the hair worn long and cut straight round, and combed down in the fashion prevalent in the latter part of the fifteenth century, to which period the monument may fairly be ascribed. The dress consists of the sclavine, the peculiar garb of pilgrims: this was a kind of cloak reaching nearly to the ankles, with short and loose open sleeves, from within which appear the full sleeves of the inner vest, or tunic, extending to the wrists. On the feet, which rest upon a dog, are worn short boots, pointed at the toes and loosely laced in front from a little above the instep upwards. The head of the figure rests upon two tasseled cushions, and between it and the right shoulder appears the pilgrim's broad-brimmed hat with an escallop or cockle shell in front, showing that he had

* See Illustrations facing page 29.

travelled beyond the sea. Coming down on each side of the shoulder in front of the breast is a collar of SS, clearly indicating that the person represented was a man of distinction. In front of the left shoulder may be seen his string of beads crossing the breast to the elbow on the right side. Suspended from a narrow belt crossing diagonally from the right shoulder is the Scrip, with escallop shells upon it: whilst under his left wrist passed the Bourdon, or Pilgrim's Staff, with a square knob or pomel at the head. The hands of the figure, which were raised in the attitude of prayer, are lost.

"Give me my *Scallop shell* of quiet
My *Staff* of faith to rest upon;
My *Scrip* of joy, immortal diet,
My bottle of salvation;
My *Gown* of glory, (hope's true gage,)
And thus I'll make my Pilgrimage."
SIR WALTER RALEIGH.

No inscription is on or near this rare and remarkable monument; so that the enquirer is left to conjecture solely, to determine who is here commemorated, and when he was buried, but the style of the effigy and of the carving, with the collar round the neck, will help us to arrive at a conclusion. The low bend of the arch shows that the work is not of an earlier date than the middle of the fifteenth century, and the collar was worn as late as that period. The personage represented was in all probability a contemporary with William, Lord Hastings. Now as that nobleman had three brothers—Richard, Ralph, and Thomas—it may have been one of these. The first was baron Welles, the second was an esquire of the body to Edward IV.; of the third little appears to be known. Would it not, therefore, in all probability be an effigy of the latter?

September 10*th*, 1856.

EXCURSION. A party of members and friends drove from Leicester to Melton Mowbray, where a Public Meeting was held in the Corn Exchange, the Rev. W. M. Colles, Curate of the parish, in the chair.

The Hon. and Rev. J. Sandilands, read a Paper prepared by Mr. Vincent Wing, upon

S. MARY'S CHURCH, MELTON.

THE chief subject of this Paper is the Church in this town. In addressing the members of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society, introductorily to the excursion of to-day, the writer desires to be particular in two points—namely, brevity, and

giving matter-of-fact, unexaggerated statements. This is the more necessary, as the admirer of mediæval art is very liable to be carried too far by his enthusiasm when adverting to objects of exciting merit, and such undoubtedly exist in the Edifice under consideration.

There is no mistake, however, in answering in the affirmative the question that may generally arise—"Is Melton church worth going far to see?" Though not so rich, possibly, in historical association as some, this beautiful House of God (it can be said advisedly), is the finest church in the county. The ground arrangement, the outline of the superstructure, and the details, possess a superiority, it is presumed, over every other.

It is a cruciform church, and is peculiar in its symmetrical proportions, The transept is of due length, a circumstance to which attention should be called, as in parochial churches this advantage is seldom found. Nor do we often meet with the two aisles and clerestory carried out in this part upon the same plan as in the nave. But here we have them in perfection. These are matters essential to true grandeur, and have been almost confined to cathedrals.

Some views of the exterior are unsatisfactory, but a good position near to the south-west corner of the churchyard will bring before the beholders a striking outline, and an array of beauty that cannot fail to astonish. The only drawbacks are the dilapidated parapet, and the plainness of some of the lower windows.

In details there is variety, and each of the three Pointed Styles is admirably exemplified. The clerestory and the upper part of the tower are of Perpendicular work of the time of Henry VII., and are a specimen of the excellent masonry for which that period was remarkable. The Decorated aisles, seen in this view, are rather poor; but this is fully atoned for by the beautiful porch, which, with its doorway and eight gorgeous niches, presents a show of elaborate sculpture of the time of Edward II. It is in very good preservation, with the exception of the pinnacles, which have perished, and have been superseded by a modern coping. Their restoration will ere long be accomplished, we trust, to the perfecting of this ecclesiastical gem. The lower part of the tower is Early English, and to this we particularly invite attention; it is, perhaps, the most perfect example to be met with. A long acquaintance with it reveals not a fault, but yields a growing admiration. At each angle, in the place of a buttress, the wall has a slight projection, finished by a cylindrical moulding at the sides, and banded by a prolongation of the abacus of the capital near it: the space between, receding a little, is overhung by a corbel table, and on each face of the tower is a triplet of windows. These windows are of equal height, having two lights each, and geometrical tracery and cusping in the heads, with a judiciously placed transom rather

below the middle of the opening. They are deeply recessed, and of this circumstance the architect has fully availed himself. Into each jamb he has introduced three banded shafts, separated by two lines of the dog-tooth ornament. Above their capitals is a lancet arch of very great beauty; the delicate dripstone, with the outer moulding which rises from the front capital, is arranged with great taste; and the archivolt, which contains two other mouldings with intervening hollows, has a ribbed appearance. When the two sides of the tower are seen together, the effect is that of six niched recesses with canopies, the light and shade of which must be seen to be fully appreciated.

If we look at the building from the south-east, the staircase is seen to project. This is generally disliked, but we have the tower in more perfect proportions in the other view, and it is an advantage to see it in this, as well as from the north-east, in a more massive form. This excrescence, viewed from the north-west, is certainly clumsy, but even then it is effective in making the whole church appear much larger.

Some apology may now seem necessary for having used strong expressions in describing the excellencies of a church that has not hitherto been much brought into notice by architects and ecclesiologists. It is sufficient to say that it would be unjust to use tamer language. The inadequacy of impressions made upon visitors has arisen out of the following circumstances, which should be borne in mind this morning by those who have not yet seen the church, to prevent disappointment. Some conspicuous parts of the building, both outside and inside, and the first sight of it that a stranger usually gets, are detrimental. In the part nearest to the street are a debased east window and vestry, the aisles look plain, and the interior of the church is lumbered up with galleries and high pews—ecclesiastically and more properly called *scaffolds* and *cells*. The chancel is disfigured, not only by the present east window, but by a debased roof with tie-beams, and its best features are concealed. The cuspings of the two large transept windows have been banished by the ingenious glaziers of the eighteenth century, and a veil of paint and plaster has completed the libel.

But a brighter day has dawned for true restoration: the celebrated Mr. Scott has been resorted to, and an east window, designed by him, is at this time preparing for insertion.* Let us call in imagination to help us, and anticipate complete reform—then we shall have unmingled satisfaction as we enter this sacred edifice. A vista of arches opens before us as we approach the western portal, the rich Decorated doorway of the porch is

* This window, filled with stained glass, beautifully designed and coloured by Wailes of Newcastle, has been inserted through the liberality of Robert Day, Esq., M.D., and members of his family (1862).

succeeded by the equally rich Early English entrance to the church, the grove-like arcades of the nave conduct us to the two arches of the tower, which are seen in succession, resting on their magnificent clustered pillars, and the anticipated appropriate east window is the extremity and crown of the perspective. We may also with propriety invoke the aid of music—

> "Let the solemn organ pealing
> Swell the tide of holy feeling;"

and our best senses will compel us to "reverence God's sanctuary," imparting the conviction that architecture, not less than music, is most powerful as a help to devotion.

The centre of the building is the place from which to see the clerestory, which must not be forgotten. It is peculiarly light and elegant, containing no less than forty-eight windows, each of three lights. The pendants and mouldings are almost innumerable.

It may occur to some to ask—How came Melton to be honoured with the best architects and the best workmen in the thirteenth, fourteenth, and at the end of the fifteenth century? for the fact that it was so is proved by these architectural remains. No doubt it was then a place of more importance than now. *Medelton*, as it was anciently called (or *Middle-Town*), is one of the oldest market towns in England. It had an endowed school at least as long ago as the year 1347. But we suspect its church is chiefly indebted to the great priory at Lewes, which in the thirteenth century had the patronage, and to which priory the cell of twelve Cluniac monks at Melton was subject. And we must not forget its connection with the illustrious family of the Mowbrays.

Objects of interest, and some of great interest, are not wanting to the ecclesiologist.

Two unimportant brasses only remain. Of the many that once did honour to the dead, the matrices or vestiges show where the *robbers of churches* have laid their sacrilegious hands. Incised slabs and ancient tombs exist, but they are partly concealed by modern work. There are three high-tombs, dating about 1300, 1400, and 1500, respectively, commemorative of a crusader, a lady, and a knight. The first has his tomb, or cenotaph, in a recess in the south wall of the nave, as though a founder or benefactor of the church; the second, an alabaster enshrinement; the third, a Purbeck marble structure, formerly inlaid with a splendid brass, the outline of which enables the instructed student to recover the design. How delightful must have been the contrast of the two last, and how striking their appearance, when the "virgin white" and the shining sable, illuminated with glowing brass, did their best to honour these worthies, who were probably chief contributors to the magnificent temple wherein they have their resting place!

The bells are eight in number; the six largest are old, and

some have inscriptions*. There are two fonts; one of a modern character, has the well known Greek inscription, that may be read either backwards or forwards; the other is a gift of the family of the late Richard Norman, Esq., and is a striking piece of church furniture from an elaborate design by Scott.

We come lastly to a portion possessing more than ordinary attraction—the *Galilee* Porch. The sculptured and ornamented parts, judging from the work, might seem to have had the same artists as were employed at the south-west of the church at Gaddesby, in this county, and, if possible, surpass that gorgeous production both in design and execution. But we are more disposed, from a similar agreement with the nave and chapter-house at York, on the strength of the following corroborating particulars to claim for this porch a common parentage with the King Minster. About 1280, a William de Melton was presented rector of Melton Mowbray. In 1317, a William de Melton was consecrated archbishop of York. The nave of the cathedral was built under this archbishop, as testified by his initials (M M M M M) furnishing therein a running ornament. That he was the same person as the rector of that name is chronologically consistent; for, in the common course, he might in early life enter upon the rectorship in 1280, and in advancing years, in 1317, become archbishop. This is suggested by the name, and with the strong family likeness in the ornamental features, we can scarcely escape from the conclusion that the principal builder of York cathedral erected the porch here, and was no other than William of Melton Mowbray. It is much to be regretted that the porch is mutilated by the disappearance of the presumed pinnacles. Its piscina, locker, and other relics will be explored with much pleasure; and a question for interesting discussion will arise upon a singular window, and more especially four openings in the walls. These latter resemble the mysterious lychnoscope, a name still retained, though the theory it denotes is exploded by more conclusive evidence that it was "an outward confessional window for all comers." The apertures, to which we solicit attention, like the lychnoscope, had never been glazed, but have had a grating and shutter; they are not high from the ground, and had long been firmly blocked up by masonry. Much to the annoyance of the antiquarian, they have been recently opened and glazed. They furnish good examples to help further investigation

* Until the year 1802 there were only six bells here. In that year the two lightest bells were added from the foundry of Mr. John Briant, of Hertford, who also set up a new clock. The set of chimes, which now (1862) makes a not very successful attempt to keep up their old reputation, were then likewise added. The III. and IV. are ancient pre-Reformation bells, bearing the following inscriptions:—

III. AVE SANCTA MARIA.
IV. BEATA MARIA.

There is also a sanctus bell, dated 1688, traditionally said to have been brought from the chapel (now destroyed) at Eye Kettleby.—T. North.

of the question; and if we be satisfied to regard them as outward confessionals, the number will not be staggering, provided we bear in mind that Melton was on the highway to the great leper hospital at Burton Lazars, which at certain times of the year would bring swarms of these 'all comers.' Besides the hospital, a spring at that place in great repute for the cure of leprosy, attracted them. Moreover, the farm house adjoining the churchyard, afterwards and to this day called the rectory, was inhabited by fourteen chantry priests. We may conclude, therefore, that there would be no lack of applicants or of priests to confess them.

It is not doubted that the members who visit the church this morning, will be greatly pleased in looking over the edifice which we have attempted to describe, and it is earnestly wished that they may be useful in promoting a safe guardianship of its antiquarian and architectural treasures, by giving encouragement to correct restoration, and dealing discouragement to ignorant and destructive meddling. Regarding it as we do as the pride of Leicestershire, being persuaded that it is the production of the first architects and the ablest workmen of the three periods of its erection, and not forgetting our obligations to them that have left us this monument of the best feature of the piety of those times, we are anxious to uphold and protect it, and gladly hail the day of its being brought under visitation by the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society.

The church at Kirby, dedicated originally to St. Mary, but on becoming conventual, to St. Peter, has a fine tower with a broach spire. When the north aisle was standing, the whole breadth was scarcely less than seventy feet. There are in the nave examples of Early English and Decorated work; the chancel and other portions are Debased. Here are also an interesting monument with two recumbent figures, about A.D. 1370, and a churchyard cross.

Great Dalby church has remaining the lower part of a fine tower, transitional from Early English to Decorated, with Debased work in the upper story. The chancel is a little earlier in style; and the nave is very remarkable, as a rare instance of a complete church of the Elizabethan period. It has on the exterior three shields, the sculpture of which is good.

Little Dalby church has for the most part been rebuilt, and in a costly manner. With the adjacent grounds, and recently beautified mansion of E. B. Hartopp, Esq., this will furnish a great treat to lovers of the picturesque. The north door of the church is exquisite, and the chancel-arch and many other parts are exceedingly good for effect. The architect does not appear to have aimed at any particular date, but it would seem that a mixture of styles has been adopted, forming a sort of Composite Gothic. It is a superior production, and as the experiment of a new Order, if we may call

it so, will elicit the opinions and exercise the criticism of architectural members.

Burton Lazars derives importance from the famous Roger de Mowbray, who, about 1145, built there an hospital for the relief of lepers and impotents of the military orders. The nave of the church is of the style of the latter part of the twelfth century, or semi-Norman, with Early English and Decorated work added. Extensive restorations have been carried out in good taste, chiefly at the charge of Mr. Hartopp. The Decorated aisles, which are of superior design and workmanship, have not been meddled with. It has chantry chapels, and a font of the time of Richard II.

Extensive ranges and mounds of earthworks, supposed to be the remains of the hospital, are to be seen at a little distance from the church.

A vote of thanks to both the writer and reader of this paper having been proposed and seconded:

The Chairman in putting the resolution to the Meeting said he thought what had been done in Melton Church was encouraging when they considered the difficulties they had to contend with. One reason, he believed, why it had been so long neglected, was the disgraceful state of the churchyard. The ground was so high from the accumulation of soil that the church was smothered. This, however, had now been completely removed. A portion of the gallery might perhaps be taken down, but he could not say anything decidedly.* With reference to the pews, the people there, as in many other places, supposed pews were private property; a man thought a pew as much his own as his parlour, and this occasioned an almost insuperable difficulty. This opinion, of course, was not true, but when people were disposed to contend for what they thought their right, it frequently raised great difficulties in the way of improvements. He thought, however, something might be done to restore the two pinnacles near the porch, which were very beautiful in their original state. What had been done had been approved by those capable of giving a correct opinion upon such matters. They had made a few trifling mistakes, but when he considered the difficulties they had to encounter, he thought it due to those who had taken an interest in the work, to say he did not know any place where so much had been done with so little means. He hoped this Meeting would be an encouragement for them to go on. It would be a subject of great regret to him if they should have to put common glass in their new east window, which he supposed would be one of the finest in this part of England, and he hoped the matter would be so taken up that they might have a window worthy of the church.†

* This, to a very limited extent, has been effected. (1862.)

† This window has since been filled with stained glass, most beautiful in design

After the usual votes of thanks, &c., the Meeting separated, and the Excursionists went to view the church; they then proceeded to Burton Lazars, where Mr. V. Wing pointed out the salient features of the church, attention being specially called to the Bell Turret, in which the bells are exposed to public view. Burton Lazars is so called from a hospital for leprous persons formerly existing there. This hospital was founded by Roger de Mowbray, in the reign of Henry I., in honor of the Virgin Mary and S. Lazarus, and was the chief of all the Lazar houses in England. A spring of water, supposed to be efficacious in cases of leprosy, existed near the church.*

Dalby hall and church were next visited. The church had lately been rebuilt by Mr. Hartopp, at his own cost. Both that and the hall, at which very extensive works have been carried on, were much admired. The party next pursued their course to Burrow Hill, the encampment upon which, Mr. Thompson considered, was not in the first instance of Roman but of British origin, and that the Romans, finding it already existing, appropriated it to themselves. Great Dalby and Kirby Belers were visited on the return of the party to Leicester.

October 27th, 1856.

Mr. G. H. Nevinson in the chair.

In conformity with recent arrangements of the Society, this was a Meeting open to all the Members and their friends. The order of business has been reversed, and the exhibition of antiquities and reading of papers now comes first, after which follows the Committee Meeting for the transaction of the financial and other affairs of the Society. The presence of several visitors showed that this arrangement is likely to prove advantageous.

and color, through the liberality of Robert Day, Esq., M.D., and other members of his family. (1862.)

* This spring of water, the salutary properties of which had probably been one cause of the erection here of the ancient hospital, had been neglected and its medicinal properties forgotten until the latter part of the eighteenth century, when it was searched for, found, and a small building erected on the left hand of the high way leading to Little Dalby, on the outskirts of the village, containing a pump and bath for the use of invalids. Very many tested the healing effect of the water, and according to the long list of cures preserved by Throsby in his "Excursions," very many received great and lasting benefit, especially those afflicted with skin diseases. Even within the last twenty years persons have sent to Burton for bottles of its water. The spring, however, was again neglected, the pump broken, and only about a year ago the building was taken down,—the last reminder of the time when the sufferings of the poor lepers were alleviated, and perhaps their disease removed, by drinking or bathing in the waters of Burton Saint Lazarus.—T. North. (1862.)

Mr. Thompson produced, in lieu of some Roman pottery which he had expected, a manuscript belonging to the Leicester Town Library. Though lettered on the back as a manuscript Missal, it appeared to be a series of Homilies in English upon the Gospels for the Sundays and Holy-days throughout the year. The date of it is probably the fifteenth century. It may have been used in one of the religious houses of Leicester before the Reformation, and shortly after the dispersion of their books have found its way into the Town Library, which contains other valuable manuscripts.

Mr. Neale exhibited the fine sovereign of old standard gold of Queen Elizabeth, representing her seated on her throne, mint mark an escalop; and another sovereign, mint mark a woolpack, with the Queen's head in profile: both in excellent preservation.

Mr. Webster exhibited some fragments of glass mosaics, which he picked up in the mosque of S. Sophia, Constantinople, in the month of June, 1848, from among the rubbish lying on the floor of the building, which was then undergoing repairs. They were bits of glass, of different colours, some of them gilt, roughly embedded in plaster. The gilding appears to have been effected by gold-leaf being introduced between a thick and a thin layer of glass. Wyatt, in his "Mosaics," says that glass Mosaic came up at Constantinople soon after the seat of the empire was removed thither, which was A.D. 329. These specimens, to judge from the rudeness of their execution, were perhaps of the age of Justinian, who rebuilt the church of S. Sophia A.D. 531-538, on the site of two former churches which had been burnt down.

Mr. T. Nevinson laid before the Meeting some exquisite photographic views recently purchased abroad, viz. 1, the cathedral and leaning campanile at Pisa from the south-west; 2, an exterior view of the baptistery at Pisa; 3, the pulpit in the baptistery; 4, the campanile of the cathedral at Florence; 5, the north door of the same cathedral; 6, the principal doors of the baptistery at Florence; 7, the principal front of the old palace at Florence.

Mr. Gresley exhibited some silver medals of King Charles the First. 1, a small one commemorative of the marriage of the King and Henrietta Maria with their busts in profile: reverse, a winged figure scattering flowers, circumscribed FVNDIT . AMOR . LILIA . MIXTA . ROSIS . 1625. 2, a rather larger medal, by N. Briot, with the King's bust: reverse, a ship in full sail, with the legend NEC . META . MIHI . QVÆ . TERMINVS . ORBI . 1630. 3, a thin medal with a ring to suspend it by, with the King's bust in high relief: engraved reverse, the royal arms, crown, and garter. 4, the King's bust, with the legend SVCCESSOR VERVS VTRIVSQVE: reverse, an animal in flames, apparently with the neck cut through, and the legend CONSTANTIA CÆSARIS . IAN 30 1648, being the day of the King's martyrdom. Mr. Gresley also exhibited a cast of the same King's Oxford Crown with a view of the city under the horse.

The Chairman reported to the Meeting the result of some further excavations in the Abbey grounds at Leicester, by which the foundation of old walls have been exposed to view; but at present it was impossible to assign them to any particular buildings of the Abbey. His remarks were illustrated by two plans by Mr. Millican.

COMMITTEE MEETING:

Mr. George H. Nevinson, in the chair.

A letter was read from the Rev. Lord Alwyne Compton, in acknowledgment of his having been elected an Honorary Member of this Society, at its Annual Meeting on the 9th of September last.

Mr. James Jacques, of Birstall House, near Leicester, was proposed and elected a member.

The Secretary produced and read a long correspondence from the General Secretary of the Joint Publication of Reports Committee, concerning the different items of expense incurred by this Society therein.

A lengthy discussion followed respecting the cost of the Society's share in the volume of Reports and Papers for last year, issued jointly by the Northamptonshire, Yorkshire, and other Architectural Societies. Mr. Thompson gave notice that at the next Meeting he should formally propose that the Leicestershire Society withdraw from its present connection with the above-mentioned publication, and print annually for the members a volume of their own papers and proceedings.

Mr. Gresley informed the Committee that Stukeley's Account of Croyland Abbey, read by him at the General Meeting last year, and printed at their request, was now completed.

Resolved: that a copy be sent to each member of this Society for the year 1855; and that the Secretary be supplied with a sufficient number of copies for that purpose.

A vote of thanks was cordially passed to E. B. Hartopp, Esq., for his courteous and hospitable reception of the Society at his mansion, Little Dalby Hall, during their late annual excursion.

The transaction of some financial business closed the meeting.

December 29th, 1856.

THE Rev. Robert Burnaby in the chair.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley exhibited an antique gold finger ring with the legend of S. Christopher engraved thereon.

Mr. T. Nevinson produced a rubbing of a brass of William de

Aldeburgh. The figure represented on a bracket, and is supposed to have been engraved for the purpose of being fixed to the wall.

The Rev. M. Webster exhibited a pardon granted by Charles II. to Colonel Kelsey, one of the Parliamentary Generals for the part he had taken in the Civil War. Also several Commissions from Cromwell, &c. &c.

Committee Meeting:

A letter was read from the Rev. E. Trollope, on behalf of the Lincolnshire Architectural Society, inviting this Society to join in an intended meeting of several Architectural and Archæological Societies at Lincoln, in the spring of next year.

It was agreed that this invitation be accepted, and the Secretary was directed to write to that effect to Mr. Trollope.

The Rev. T. Jones and Mr. M. J. Joyce were elected Members for 1857.

A discussion relative to the publication of the Transactions of this Society terminated the proceedings.

TRANSACTIONS

OF

THE LEICESTERSHIRE

Architectural and Archæological

SOCIETY.

VOL. I.—PART 2.

LEICESTER:
PRINTED BY CROSSLEY AND CLARKE.
1863.

Price Three Shillings and Sixpence.

GENEALOGY COLLECTION

The Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society.

1863.

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THE RIGHT REVEREND THE LORD BISHOP OF PETERBOROUGH.

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The Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society.

Established, January 10th, 1855.

ITS OBJECTS:

To promote the study of Architecture, and General Antiquities, and the Restoration of Mutilated Architectural Remains within the County; and to furnish suggestions, so far as may be within its province, for improving the character of Ecclesiastical Edifices, and for preserving all Ancient Remains which the Committee may consider of value and importance.

ITS PROCEDURE:

I. An Annual General and Public Meeting at such time and place as the Committee may appoint; connected with which there is usually a Museum for the Exhibition of Antiquities, followed by a day's Excursion to places of interest in the neighbourhood.

II. Bi-Monthly Meetings of Members, at which Architectural Plans, Antiquities, or Works of Art, are exhibited, and Papers read.

III. The Publication, annually, in union with several other kindred Societies, of a Volume—furnished gratuitously to Members—containing a Report of the Proceedings of the Society and such Papers read during the year as the Committee may deem advisable, and the funds permit. The Volume also contains Reports and Papers from all the Associated Societies.

IV. The Publication, at such periods as the funds of the Society will permit, of its Past Transactions—Notices of the Articles exhibited at its Meetings, and copies of the Papers read—in illustrated parts of one hundred pages, furnished gratuitously to Members.

MEMBERSHIP:

New Members are elected at the Bi-Monthly or General Meetings, and can be proposed by any Member of the Society, personally, or by letter.

SUBSCRIPTION:

The Annual Subscription is Ten Shillings, due on the first of January in each year; and payable in advance to the Credit of the Society with Messrs. Pares' Leicestershire Banking Company at Leicester, or any of its Branches, or to the Secretaries of the Society.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Any Correspondence arising from the perusal of this Statement to be addressed to Mr. Thomas North, Southfields, Leicester, one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Society.

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THE REV. J. M. GRESLEY. G. C. BELLAIRS, ESQ.

Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society.

February 23rd, 1857.

The Rev. G. E. Gillett in the chair.

The Chairman exhibited some clever anastatic prints, by W. J. Gillett, Esq., of the Churches of Waltham-on-the-Wolds, and Chadwell, Leicestershire, and of Canterbury Cathedral; also some exemplifications of legal tenures, &c.

Mr. Thomas Nevinson laid before the Meeting a very beautiful rubbing of the memorial brass of John Martyn, a judge of the King's Bench, and Anna, his wife, in Graveney Church, Kent. This large and fine brass comprises the effigy of the judge and his lady beneath a rich double canopy. The judge is represented in his official robes, with a coif upon his head,—judges being originally ecclesiastics, wore the coif to cover the tonsure. His feet rest upon a lion; and in his hand he holds a heart, inscribed with the words IHU. MCY. The lady is habited in a kirtle under a mantle, and has the horned head-dress of the period. She was the daughter and heiress of John Boteler, of Ewell Court, Esq. She survived the judge (who died A.D. 1436), and also a second husband, Thomas Borgeys, Esq., and died A.D. 1458. In the spandrils of the canopy, between the pinnacles and the finials, were four shields of arms: of these one only now remains, and bears the name of Boteler or Butler. (Vide *Boutell's Monumental Brasses.*)

The Rev. J. M. Gresley produced a portion of a monumental brass consisting of the representation of a man in the dress of a civilian, probably of the time of Elizabeth. It was purchased some years ago, at an auctioneer's in Oxford, but its original locality is not known.

Mr. James Thompson exhibited the metal matrix of the seal of Roger Dyvett, lately found in a garden in Princess Street, Leicester. In place of armorial bearings, it has his merchant's mark,—a shield charged with a cross, and above it another cross with a banner, around which is the inscription S. ROGIER. DYVET.

Mr. North read the following Paper upon the

TRADESMEN'S TOKENS

Issued in Leicestershire in the XVIIth Century, with Introductory Remarks and Notes.

On presenting a list of such of the Tradesmen's Tokens issued in Leicestershire as are mentioned by our local historians, possessed by myself, or preserved in such collections as I have had reference to, perhaps a few words upon their origin, use, and present value to the historian and the antiquary, may not be out of place.

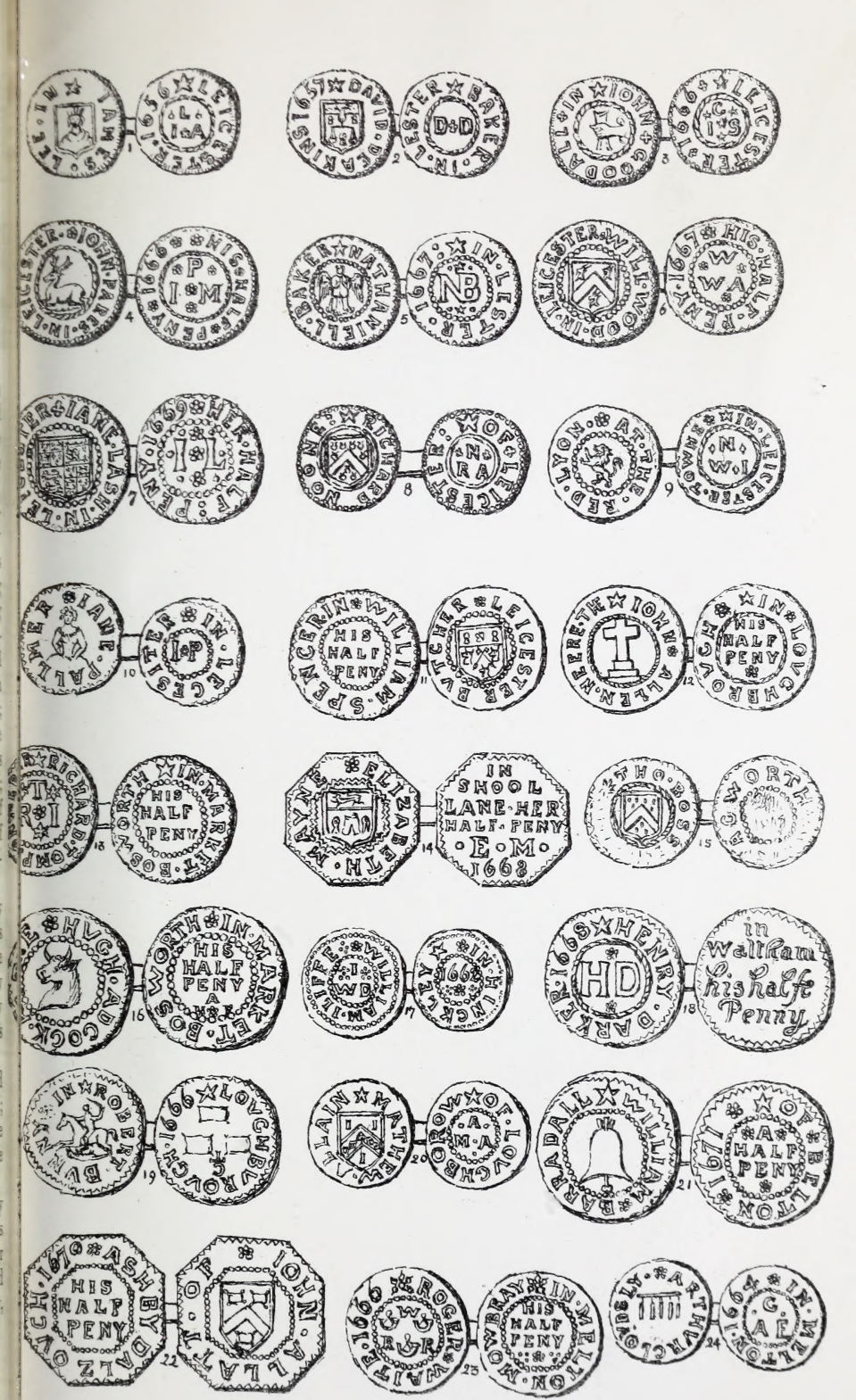
These Tokens originated in the great scarcity of small coins—halfpence and farthings—for "change;" this want was particularly felt by the poor. "In 1402, the extreme scarcity of small coins among the poorer people, induced the Commons to petition king Henry the Fourth in parliament, for some remedy for the pressing mischief amongst the poor people, occasioned by the want of halfpennies and farthings of silver, which were wont to be, and still were, the most profitable money to the said people, but were then so scarce, because none were worked nor made at that time; wherefore the people in divers places of great necessity used the money of foreign lands . . . . . and in some parts, halfpennies divided, to the great destruction and waste of the said money; and in some places Tokens of lead . . . . . In consequence of this complaint, it was ordered that the third of all the money of silver which shall be brought to the bullion, shall be made in halfpence and farthings." *

The making of leaden Tokens might originate in the very ancient custom, adopted by merchants, of using leaden seals attached to their merchandize; the strings or fastenings of the packages passing through the metal when molten, in the same way in which we now use wax, and which metal was then stamped (by an engraved stone or other instrument) with some device, which is now known by the name of a "Merchant's Mark."

The coinage of a very limited number of halfpence and farthings in silver, was little likely to remedy the above complaint; indeed the two coins appear to have been so much alike in size and general appearance, as to have led Henry the Eighth to give special instructions as to their ornamental character.

The debased state of the coinage during the reign of Henry VIII., and also during that of Edward VI., notwithstanding his determination to effect a remedy, becoming even worse under Mary, naturally did not lessen the issue of these Tokens; and although Queen Elizabeth restored the integrity of the currency,

* Vide Introduction to the Beaufoy Coll. of T. Tokens, pp. v, vi.



LEICESTERSHIRE TRADESMENS' TOKENS.

(XVII. CENTURY.)

yet the great want of small change, coupled, no doubt, with the great profit arising to the issuer, caused an immense number of Tokens of lead and tin to be used amongst tavern and shopkeepers.

King James, immediately upon ascending the English throne, turned his attention to the state of the currency. On the eighteenth of November, in the first year of his reign, proclamations "concernynge the newe coyne" were received in Leicester; and in 1610 a messenger brought proclamations "that noe parson presume to melt anye Golde or Silver, to alter the coyne of the Realme of England." The first attempt at a modern copper coinage was made by him; for by proclamation, dated 19 May, 1613, he issued the royal farthing Tokens, and thenceforward prohibited the currency of all private ones. These Tokens excited great indignation, probably on account of the immense amount of plunder that went into the King's pocket, and into that of Baron Harington, of Exton, in Rutland, to whom he granted the patent, and a large portion of the profits of the issue.

This proclamation, together with one against uttering light Spanish money, was received in Leicester in 1613.

John Stamford and his deputies were authorized to issue his Majesty's farthing Tokens for this and the neighbouring county of Rutland.* The state of the currency at this period may be illustrated by the following local incident: In 1618 Mr. Lott Peere, or Peece, as agent for the Virginian Plantation Company, opened, with the sanction of the Mayor, Mr. Rowland Pusey, a lottery in Leicester, which was apparently so successful as to induce him to present to the Mayor—as a mark of his satisfaction, or as an acknowledgment for services rendered in the business—"a verie faire silver and gilt cupp, with a cover, to goe from Maior to Maior for ever;" and at the same time he also gave, *in silver*, twenty pounds to the poor of Leicester; which silver, upon its being examined after he had breakfasted with the Mayor's brethren, and taken his departure, was found to contain *nine shillings and twopence in counterfeit and broken money.*

Charles the First continued to authorize the issue of the royal farthing Tokens, and granted to the Duchess of Richmond and others, for different periods, the privilege of making them for their benefit; the farthings under these patents being, of course, below their current value, caused endless discontent and disturbance.†

By order of the House of Commons, April 12, 1643, no more Tokens were to be made under the royal letters patent; and soon

* Nichols' Hist. of Leic., vol. i., p. 425. This was more probably John Stanford, who was mayor of Leicester in 1592, and represented the town in Parliament, in conjunction with James Clark, 35 Elizabeth; or, the John Stanford who sat in Parliament for Leicester, 39 Eliz., and who was then described as "Junior."

† Vide Humphreys' Coin Col. Manual, vol. ii., p. 472.

after the exchange offices of the royal Tokens being closed, they became valueless, and inflicted great loss upon the holders.

During the Commonwealth, Tradesmen's Tokens appear to have been issued without any restriction from the government; they now appeared struck on brass and copper; and it was not until Charles the Second coined halfpence and farthings in good copper, declaring them to be current, and issued proclamation after proclamation, up to the year 1674, against Tradesmen's Tokens and their issuers, that their suppression was effected.

In Leicester, in the month of November, 1666, an order of a Common Hall was passed forbidding any person from stamping, or causing to be stamped, any more halfpence or farthings; and all persons who had issued any were called upon to give security to the Mayor for exchanging these Tokens for silver;* there were, however (as will be seen in the following list), many issued in Leicester after this date.

These Tokens, as they find their way into the cabinet of the collector, or come under the inspection of the historian, or the ken of the antiquary, speak of the past, in a language peculiarly their own; they are the homely coins of the people; they tell of a period when the people were, as in so many other instances, groping for what we now use as a matter of course; and when they were teaching the government of the country, what appears to us, one of the first, and most simple lessons connected with its currency, namely, the necessity for a plentiful supply of small coinage.

Then again, they are useful as pointing out the towns in which trade was chiefly carried on; they preserve the names and localities of public signs—a subject of considerable interest to the antiquary; and they sometimes shew by their semi-heraldic bearings (as I think is the case with the Melton-Mowbray Token, issued by Roger Wayte) the family connection of the issuer with other persons of the same name.

These Tokens, too, whilst they are pleasant reminders to those who, by recognizing in the original issuers of them an ancestor of their own, derive evidence that he was a man respected and trusted by his fellow-townsmen, also "point a moral" to those who, having prospered in the world, are sometimes apt to look with disdain upon the class to which their forefathers belonged—upon the hard working tradesman, who is perhaps now building his fortune in the same honest and reputable way, as that pursued by the issuers of these Tradesmen's Tokens.

I have, in the following list, as is usual, used the word "arms" —as Grocers' arms, &c.,—for the device or recognizance used upon the field of the Token; such device being generally an approximation to the arms of the public Company, of the calling of whose

* Thompson's Hist. Leic., p. 438.

Mr. North will be much pleased to be permitted to inspect or to purchase any Leicestershire Tradesmen's Tokens, and will be specially obliged by being informed of the existence of any variety not included in this List.

Southfields, Leicester,
Oct. 1863.

members the issuer was a follower; and in many instances I have given the arms of the Company, as a guide to those not well versed in these distinguishing marks.

With respect to my hastily collected notes upon the Tradesmen whose names are handed down to us upon these Tokens, I may say, that I have generally only jotted down any matter that came in my way, having especial reference to them, at, or prior to, the date of the issue of the Token.

*** *An asterisk is placed before such tokens in the following pages as have not hitherto appeared in any published List. For the descriptions of many of these I am indebted to Mr. Weatherhead, the indefatigable Curator of the Leicester Museum.*

APPLEBY.

O.—Christopher Birkbecke	... ...	*a King's Head in profile.*
R.—In Appleby, 1666	... ...	His Halfpeny.
O.—William Smith ...	... ...	*a Pigeon.*
*R.—In Applebye, 1669	... ...	W. S.

There being more than one Appleby, it is uncertain whether these were issued in Leicestershire.*

* When about to place this paper in the printer's hands for reprinting in these Transactions, a friend at Kendal, in Westmoreland, sends me a cutting from the *Kendal Mercury*, of 28th March, 1863, by which it will be seen Leicestershire must give up its claim to this Token in favour of that county.

"APPLEBY TOKEN FOUND.

"In taking down the old dwellings on the south side of Allhallows' Lane, Kendal, consequent on the widening of that street, the workmen have turned up a small brass token of the seventeenth century, issued at Appleby, in Westmoreland, in the year 1669.

"Mr. Brockett, in his *Tradesmen's Tokens (of the seventeenth century) issued in the counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland*, 1853, and republished in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for May of that year, has omitted to notice this specimen; it is, however, engraved and described in the latter publication for March, 1792, p. 209, without, we believe, being assigned to any county. In Mr. Boyne's elaborate work, *Tokens issued in the seventeenth century in England, Wales, and Ireland*, 1858, and also in Mr. North's *Leicestershire Tokens*, 1857, it is given, but in both dubiously appropriated to Appleby in Leicestershire.

"We think, however, there can be no question that we are right in claiming this Token for *our* Appleby, from the fact of its occasional—though it must be admitted rare—occurrence in this part of the country, and also that William Smith (doubtless the issuer of the token now under consideration) was Mayor of Appleby, in this county, in the years 1667 and 1673.

"The Token just discovered is of brass, of the farthing size, and is in excellent preservation. It contains on the

Obverse—'WILLIAM-SMITH *'=A pigeon pecking.

Reverse—'IN-APPLEBYE-1669 *'='W S'

And is now in the possession of John Hudson, Esq., of Larch How."

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH.

O.—John Allatt of ... ... *Dyers' Arms.*
R.—Ashby Dalzovch, 1670 ... ... His Halfpeny.

The Company of Dyers bear, Sa. a chevron engr. arg. betw. three bags of madder of the last, corded or; *Crest*, three sprigs of the grain tree erect, vert, fructed gu. *Supporters*, two leopards ramp. guard. arg. spotted with various colours, fire issuing from their ears and mouth, ppr. both ducally crowned or. *Motto*, DA GLORIAM DEO. —*(See sheet of Illustrations, No. 22.)*

O.—James Cowper in ... ... *an ornamental knot tying two linked C's. (?)*
*R.— Ashby-de-la-Zouch, 1667 ... ... J. C.

O.—Samuell Sowden in ... ... *S. George and the Dragon.*
*R.—Ashby-de-la-Zouch, 1667 ... ... His Halfepenny.

O.—Francis Sikes at ye Red ... ... *a Lion Rampant.*
*R.—In Ashby-daly-Zovch ... ... His Halfpeny, 1669.

Mr. *Henry* Sikes (probably a member of the same family), an Apothecary in London, born in Ashby-de-la-Zouch, gave £140. for the use of the poor of his native town for ever.

O.—James Farmer, 1671 ... .. A Halfpeny.
*R.—In Ashby-dell-Zouch ... ... *the Mercers' Arms.*

O.—David King in ... ... *the Mercers' Arms (?)*
*R.—Ashby-de-la-Zovch ... ... D. K.

O.—George Segrave ... ... *a Lion Rampant.*
*R.—Ashby-de-la-Zouch ... ... G. S.

O.—Hugh Sherwood ... ... *the Grocers' Arms.*
*R.—In Ashby, 1656 ... ... H. S.

O.—Joseph Sherwood ... ... *the Mercers' Arms.*
*R.—In Ashby, 1655 ... ... *a Bull's Head.*

In 1630 the Sherwoods were freeholders here, which makes it highly probable that the above Tokens were issued by members of that family residing in this place; otherwise the simple word "Ashby" would hardly have been sufficient to connect the Tokens with Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

BAGWORTH.

O.—Tho. Boss * * * ... ... *Grocers' Arms.*
*R.—In *agworth ... ... * * * * * *

The specimen of this Token in the Leicester Museum, was found some time ago in Mr. Herbert's brick-yard. I have assigned it to Bagworth, not because that is a place likely to have had a resident tradesman of sufficient importance to issue Tokens, but because many country tradesmen were free of the town of Leicester on market and fair-days, and Thomas Boss might on that account make use of Tokens in his business; and not only so, but the inscription, although certainly much worn away, is tolerably distinct as far as

regards the issuer's name and the letters "agworth," and to which there was clearly only one preceding letter; moreover, it will be seen, under Mountsorrell, that Boss is a name found in Leicestershire.—*(See Illus. No.* 15.*)*

BELTON.

O.—William Barradale ... ... *a Bell.*
*R.—Of Belton, 1671 ... ... A Halfpeny.

There being five Beltons in England, it is not quite certain in which county this Token was issued; but Barradale being a Leicestershire name, and Belton being formerly a market town, and having now an annual fair, it is right to place it on our list. The adoption of the Bell upon the obverse, would arise from the sign of an inn now removed, or perhaps from the name of the town, *Beltown.—(See Illus. No.* 21.*)*

BILLESDON.

O.—Henry Sanderson ... ... *a Man making Candles.*
R.—In Billsden, 1669 ... ... His Halfpeny.

MARKET BOSWORTH.

O.—Hugh Adcock at the ... ... *a Bull's Head.*
R.—In Market Bosworth ... ... His Halfpeny A. H. E.

(See Illus. No. 16.*)*

O.—Richard Tompson, Mercer... ... T. R. I.
*R.—In Market Bosworth .. ... His Halfpeny.

(See Illus. No. 13.*)*

O.—Elizabeth Mayne... ... ... *Taylors' Arms.*
*R.—In Shool Lane her Halfpeny E. M. 1668.

This Token (which is given from Mr. Evans' anastatic sheet) is octagonal in shape, and the inscription on the reverse is in horizontal lines across the field. The Merchant Taylors' Company bear, Ar. a royal tent betw. two parliament robes, gu. lined erm. the tent garnished or, tentstaff and pennon of the last; on a chief az. a lion pass. guard. or, &c.*—*Burke's Gen. Armoury. (See Illus. No.* 14.*)*

GREAT BOWDEN.

O.—Richard Bronson ... ... R. B.
R.—In Bowden, 1658 ... ... *a horse, saddled and bridled.*

* A collector of Tradesmen's Tokens, a gentleman well conversant with their peculiarities, states, unless Mr. Evans has some local knowledge to justify his opinion as to this being a Bosworth Token, there is little doubt it belongs to a series issued in "Shooe Lane," London; the style and appearance of the coin, further, he thinks, confirm this supposition.

BURROW.

O.—Iohn Shaw ... . *the Mercers' Arms.*
*R.—Of Burrow ... ... I. S., 1664.

This may belong to another county.

EASTON MAGNA.

O.—Edward Moare ... ... *Three Cloves.*
*R.—In Great Eason ... ... E. M. (in monogram.)

(Found since the reading of this Paper.—1863.)

The only specimen of this Token I have heard of is in my possession. It formerly belonged to a person residing near to Easton Magna; which circumstance renders the fact of its being a Leicestershire Token highly probable.

ELMSTHORPE.

O.—Halfpenny payable by Richd. Fowke { *a sheaf of wheat, a plough and harrow.* *Motto*, God speed the Plough.
R.—Ruins of Elmsthorpe Church, 1800 ... *Ruins of a church.*

Although this is not a Tradesman's Token, still it may be worth registering. Nichols says of it, "In 1800 Mr. Fowke (who possessed a small museum containing some valuable curiosities) obliged his particular friends with an Elmsthorpe Token. It is of copper bronzed, and only eighteen of them were struck.

HALLATON.

O.—Edward Goodman of ... ... *Three Cloves* (a Grocer).
R.—Halongton, Lest: shir ... ... G. E. A.

In 1611, Henry Goodman held lands here, and in 1630, the Goodmans were freeholders.

O.—John Ellis of ... ... *a horse saddled and bridled.*
R.—Hallerton, 1667 ... ... E. J. M.

MARKET HARBOROUGH.

O.—Elizabeth Lyng ... ... *a Pestle and Mortar.*
R.—In Harbrow ... ... E. L.

O.—Avgvstin Harper ... ... *Grocers' Arms.*
R.—Of Harbrowe ... ... A. H.

The Company of Grocers (granted 23 Hen. VIII.) bear, Ar. a chev. gu. betw. nine cloves, sa. (three, three, and three); *Crest*, a camel pass. ppr. bridled gu. on his back a bale or corded gu. *Supporters*, two griffins per fesse gu. and or. *Motto*, GOD GRANT GRACE.—*(Burke's Genl. Armoury.)*

O.—Tho. Langdel of ... ... *a Hackle.*
R.—Market Harborovgh ... .. Flax Dreser.
O.—Ann Gott, 1658 ... ... *a Leg Stockinged.*
R.—In Harbowrovgh... ... ... A. G.

She was probably a retailer of hose.

O.—At the Swann ... ... *a Swan.*
R.—In Harbrovgh 1651 ... ... S. H. F.

This Token was probably issued by one of the family of Sollers, who kept the Swans Inn for many years. Eleanor Sollers, the daughter of Thomas Launder, of Market Harborough, died in January 1768, at the advanced age of one hundred years; she is described in a note in Nichols' Leicestershire, by the Rev. Philip Hacket, as "a miracle of a woman, and she tript as nimbly as a young one." She appears to have been succeeded by John Benton, who married her granddaughter.

O.—Frances Reeves ... ... *a Swan.*
R.—In Harborow, 1667 ... ... Her Halfpeny.

The *Swans* is still the principal Inn in Market Harborough.

O.—Thomas Heyricke of ... ... T. H. 1668.
R.—Harborow, his Halfpeny ... ... T. H. divided by an ornamental knot.

This Thomas Heyricke, Nichols supposes to be the son of the Thomas Heyricke of Houghton, who was baptized the 12th May, 1588. He was an ironmonger, and a freeman of the borough of Leicester, as appears by the following extract from the Chamberlains' accounts for the year 1655-6—"Recd. of Thomas Ericke of Harborow Ironmonger for the continuance of his ffreedom for the Towne. . . 00^{li} 01^{s} 00^{d}"

O.—Henry Smith ... ... III *a Bell.* (The Three Bells.)
R.—Harborovgh ... ... H. S.
O.—Robert Bass, 1688, at ... ... *a Hart.*
R.—Markett Harborovgh ... ... His Halfpeny.

This is heart-shaped.

O.—William Thompson in ... ... *a Book Clasped.*
R.—Markett Harborovgh ... ... T. W. R.

William Thompson was a publisher in Market Harborough in 1661: in that year he published, among other works, "Thomas Goddard's Miscellanea; also a Little Box of Safe Purgative, and Restorative Pills, to be constantly taken by those who desire either to get their souls into, or keep them in, a healthful heavenly temper;" Joseph Bentham's (of Broughton, Northamptonshire) "Kings to be of God;" "Essay for Orderly Hearing;" "Defence of Psalm Singing," &c., &c.

O.—William Thompson in ... ... *a Clasped Book.*
*R.—Harbrovgh, his halfpeny ... ... T. W. R.

The preceding Token issued by W. Thompson was probably a farthing one.

O.—Thomas Wilshere ... ... *a Roll of Tobacco (?)*
R.—In Harborow ... ... W. T. M.

O.—Thomas Horton ... ... *Drapers' Arms.*
*R.—In Harbrowe .. .. T. H.

The Company of Drapers bear, Gules, three triple crowns or, each issuing out of a cloud resting on sunbeams proper.—(*Kent's Gram. of Heraldry.*)

HINCKLEY.

O.—Joseph Cave Mercer ... ... *the Grocers' Arms.*
R.—In Hinckley, 1666 ... ... His Halfpeny.
O.— Joseph Cave ... ... *the Grocers' Arms.*
*R.—In Hinckley ... ... C. J. E.

This is a farthing Token.

O.—Robert Bloor at the ... ... *a Crown.*
R.—Crowne in Hinckley 1670 ... ... His Halfpeny.

O.—Thomas Davell in .. ... *a Bear.*
R.—Hinckley Ironmonger ... ... His Halfpeny D. T. R.

O.—Nathaniell Gillbert ... ... His Halfpeny.
R.—At Hinckley 1671 ... ... *S. George and the Dragon.*

This is octagonal in shape.

O.—Nathanl Gilbert at the George ... *in four lines across the field.*
R.—In Hinckley his Halfpenny, 1672 ... *in five lines across the field.*

O.—William Iliffe ... ... I. W. D.
R.—In Hinckley ... . 1662.

Mr. William Iliffe introduced a stocking frame (which is said to have cost £60.) into Hinckley, as early as 1640; and with this single frame, which, by the aid of an apprentice, he kept constantly working, day and night, he gained a comfortable subsistence for his family; his immediate descendant, Mr. Joseph Iliffe, after having carried on the manufacture there with considerable success for more than half a century, died, universally respected, March 5, 1795, aged 76 years (*Nichols' Leicestershire, under Hinckley*). His tombstone states that he lived in the same house nearly seventy-six years, was a warm supporter of the Church, and a loyal subject to his sovereign.—(*See Illus. No.* 17.)

O.—William Bentley ... ... *a Bell* (?)
R.—Of Hinckley ... ... B. W. E.

O.—* * mas Davanport ... ... *the Grocers' Arms* (?)
R.— * Hinckly ... ... * * D.

The inscription and device are much worn away.

CHURCH LANGTON.

O.—Will. Elwood in Church ... ... *a Trowell* (?) 1669.
*R.—Langton his Halfpeny ... ... *a String of Candles.*

LEICESTER.

O.—Francis Elliot ... ... E. F. W.

R.—In Leicester 1655 ... ... E. F. W.

In 1640-41, Francis Elliott paid to the Corporation of Leicester "for a ffyne upon a Lease of a Chamber over the Eastgate for 21 yeeres" £3. 6s. 8d.; and in 1660, upon the termination of the lease, a similar fine was again paid. In 1667 (as appears by an old Catalogue formerly kept in the Town Library at the Guildhall), "Francis Elliott, of the Borough of Leicester, ironmonger, for the better furnishing of this Librarye, gave two antient large books in folio, being the works of B. Rombolt about the Civil Law, as also one other book in folio, the famous and antient Historie of Aurelius Tacitus." There were several Elliotts in Leicester at this date: William Elliott, also, an ironmonger, was Chamberlain in 1666-7, and Churchwarden of S. Martin's in 1670; and a John Elliott was a fellmonger.

O.—Iames Lee in ... ... *Mercers' Arms.*
R.—Leicester 1656 ... ... L. I. A.

James Lee, "a stranger," was admitted into the Chapman's Guild, or made free, the 6th March, 1653, and paid £5 as his fine.—He was Chamberlain in 1666-7, and in later times several of this name, and probably of this family, have filled important positions in the town. My specimen of this coin was found in Mr. Yates' stone yard, Leicester.

The Company of Mercers (incorporated 1394) bear: Gu. a demi virgin couped below the shoulders issuing from clouds all ppr. or, crowned with an Eastern Crown of the last; her hair dishevelled and wreathed round the temple with roses of the second, all within an orb of clouds ppr. *Motto*, HONOR DEO.—*(Burke's Genl. Armory.)—(See Illus. No. 1.)*

O.—David Deakins, 1657 ... ... *Bakers' Arms.*
R.—Baker in Lester ... ... D. D.

The Company of Bakers bear: Gu. a balance betw. three garbs or, on a chief barry wavy of four, arg. & az. a hand ppr. vested gu.,

cuffs or, issuing from clouds affixed to the upper part of the chief holding the balance. *Motto,* PRAISE GOD FOR ALL. *(Burke's Genl. Armory.) (See Illus. No. 2.)*

O.—David Deakins, 1664. ... ... *Bakers' Arms.*

R.—In Lester Baker... ... ... D. D.

David Deakins occupied, in 1677-8, "a piece of ground in a close near St. Margarett's church-yard, called St. Margarett's bed," for which he paid a quit rent to the Corporation of sixpence per annum.

In 1641, a Daniel Deken was Chamberlain, and about the year 1658, John Deakins, a weaver, resided in Leicester. This family is I believe still represented here.

O.—John Goodall in ... ... *a Hand with a Glove (?)*

R.—Leicester 1666. ... ... G. J. S.

The recognizance in the field of the obverse is not clearly decipherable. John Goodall appears to have been an active man in public matters: he was Chamberlain in 1665-6, Churchwarden of S. Martin's in 1670, and Mayor in 1680.—His name appears in the list of aldermen dismissed from the body corporate, by order of James the Second in February 1688; and in December of that year, he with many others signed a pledge of his adhesion to the cause of the Prince of Orange. He resided in a house then standing near the East Gates, probably at or near the corner of the present new Bond Street, for in the Chamberlains' accounts for 1678-9 he is mentioned as the occupier of a messuage or tenement near the East Gates; whilst in the following year the same house is described as being in the Swine's Market, as the High Street was then called.—*(See Illus. No. 3.)*

O.—Robert Page in Leicester ... ... *S. George and the Dragon.*

R.—His Halfe Penny, 1666 .. ... P. R. E.

"The George" formerly stood in Hotel Street, at the corner of Friar Lane. The site is now occupied by premises in the occupation of Mr. Meadows, druggist.

O.—Iohn Pares in Leicester ... ... *a Hart Couchant.*

R.—His Halfpeny, 1666 ... ... P. I. M.

The family of Pare or Pares had been established in Leicester many years before the issue of this Token. In 1593 and following years, Thomas Pare rented the Chambers over the Westgate. In 1620 John Pare was Mayor, and in conjunction with a Mr. Hinde rented the Castle Mills. There were, however, more families than one bearing this name in Leicester, for in 1663-4 John Paire, a stranger, was admitted into the Chapman's Guild, or made free of the town.* In 1665, John Pares, most probably the issuer of the

* The fact of this John Paire residing in this town may, however, be questioned, for in a long list of receipts derived from the sale of fee farm rents in Leicester, in the year 1670-1, occurs the name of *Mr. John Paire, of London* (spelt exactly like the above), who paid to the Corporation £16. for the purchase or redemption of one of these rents.

above Token, was constable of one of the wards, and, according to Mr. Thompson, he was the first regularly-appointed postmaster for Leicester. He says, "During the Commonwealth the communication between Leicester and London was maintained by employing a man to go the distance and return once a-week. He was called a 'foot-post.' In the reign of Charles the Second, 1667, a proclamation was forwarded to the Mayor of this town, setting forth that Lord Arlington had been appointed postmaster-general, and prohibiting the secret and indirect conveyance of letters from place to place. His lordship about the same time chose John Pares, deputy-postmaster for Leicester, for six months."—*Hist. of Leicester, p.* 428. "John Pares, of Leicester," purchased from the Corporation in 1670-1, a fee farm rent for the sum of £6. 8s.

In addition to the foregoing, another Mr. Pares (whether of the same family or not I do not know) makes his appearance in Leicester during the Commonwealth. A vacancy having occurred in 1654-5, in the office of Master of the Free School, Mr. Chamberlain Ludlam went to Harborough and to Oakham "about a schoolemaster," but not meeting with an eligible one, or the preliminary propositions not being equally agreeable to both parties concerned, Uppingham was tried, but with no better success. Mr. Pares, a schoolmaster at Ashby, being next communicated with, he came over to Leicester; and the Town Clerk soon after going to Ashby to "treat with him," appears to have been successful in his mission, for the Chamberlains charge in their accounts "for three horses hire and one man, when Chamberlain Coleman went to Ashby to bring the same schoolemaster and his goods" (he was undoubtedly an unmarried man) "to this town." And again, "Paid for a pinte of Canary at his coming to this Town." and, "Paid for Dyett for the said Mr. Pares and his man."

The White Hart had long been one of the principal inns in the town. In the middle of the sixteenth century, Henry Gray, of Bradgate, Marquis of Dorset, stayed there; and reference is frequently made to it in the Chamberlains' accounts. The vintners of Leicester, licensed "to draw, utter, and sell wyne," were at this time persons apparently occupying good positions in society; many of them being styled in the Chamberlains' accounts (where such an appellation is seldom given) as "gentlemen."

By Indenture dated 17 February, 13th Elizabeth (1570-1) Thomas Worship, of Leicester, Yeoman, demised to John Heyrick, of Leicester, for the term of 1000 years, a messuage called the White Hart Inn, another messuage, a lawn, a close in Humberstone Gate, with some other small parcels, for the annual rent of a rose flower.—*Nichols' Leic. Guth. Hund., p.* 400. (*See Illus. No.* 4.)

O.—Edward Read of Leicester.... ... *an Antelope.*

R.—His Halfepenny, 1666 ... ... R. E. M. *& ornamental knot.*

Edward Read, "a stranger," was admitted into the Chapman's Guild in 1649-50.

It is fair to presume that Mr. Read brewed good ale, for he supplied the Hall occasionally.

1663-4—"I^{tm} p^{d} Edward Reade for beere to the Town Hall at sevall tymes ..... iij^{s} ij^{d}
1665-6—I^{tm} p^{d} Edwarde Reade for beere at twice to the hall and paler (parlour) ..... i^{s}"

He appears to have died prior to 1669, for in that year I find "P^{d} Widow Reade for ale this year..... iiij^{s} vj^{d}"
—*Chamberlains' Accounts.*

O.—Nathaniell Baker... ... ... *an Angel.*
R.—In Lester, 1667 ... ... N. B. *in monogram.*

The Angel, which had been for a considerable time the principal inn in Leicester, stood between the Cheapside and Gallowtree Gate. The ancient hostelry has long since disappeared, but the sign has only within the past few years been removed from an edifice, occupying a portion of the site upon which previously stood its more noted and more frequented predecessor.

It was chiefly at the Angel that the Mayor and his brethren regaled the neighbouring nobility, and persons of distinction passing through, or staying in the town, with sack, claret, and sugar. Thus to take one year:

1597. "Oct. 6. Paid for a pottell of sacke, a pottell of clarett a pottell of white wyne and a pounde of suger geven to the Earle of Shrewsburie att the Angell in Leicester..... vj^{s} viij^{d}
Nov. 7. P^{d} for wyne and suger geven to the Earle of Huntingdon att the Angell in Leicester ..... xxxij^{s} iiij^{d}
1598. Jany. 17. P^{d} for a pottell of clarett, and a pottell of secke, geven to Mr. Justice Beaumont, he then beinge att the Angell in Leicester ..... iiij^{s}
Sep. 12. P^{d} for wyne and suger geven to Mr. Thomas Cave att the Angell, he then sittinge for the subsidy ..... iij^{s} j^{d}"
—*Chamberlains' Accounts.*

The Angel would probably be adopted as a sign, in reference to the belief in the ministry of Angels, held alike by the Mediæval and Reformed Churches.—(*See Illus. No.* 5.)

O.—Daniell Heggs in 1667 ... ... *a Unicorn.*
R.—Leicester his Halfpeny ... ... H. D. S.

There were several persons of this name in Leicester. In 1642-3 Wm Heggs received from the Corporation 1*s.* 8*d.* "for four linkes to light the forces into the Towne when they came from Melton." Edward Heggs was a butcher here in 1660.

O.—Will Wood in Leicester ... ... *Cordwainers' Arms.*
R.—His Halfpeny 1667 ... ... W. W. A.

The Company of Cordwainers bear, Gules, a chevron between three goats' heads erased, Argent.—*Kent's Gram. of Heraldry.*—(*See Illus*: *No.* 6.)

O.—John Browne ... ... *Man dipping Candles.*
R.—Of Leicester 1669 ... ... His Halfpeny.

The Brownes were extensively represented in Leicester at this date. There being Thomas Browne apprentice to a tailor, Thomas Browne an innkeeper, and another Browne a pavior and mason.

O.—Jane Lash in Leicester ... ... *Royal (or King's) Arms.*
R.—Her Halfepeny 1669 ... ... J. L.

The first mention I have seen of this disagreeable name in Leicester occurs in 1656, when William Lash, "a stranger," was admitted into the Chapmans' Guild by consent of a Common Hall, and paid £5. as his fine. He appears to have been an Innkeeper, for in 1659-60 the following entry occurs in the Chamberlains' accounts:

"I^{tm} p^{d} to Wm. Lash for a man and a horse to goe wth a Lieutenant of Generall Moncks to Harborowe, ij^{s} vi^{d};"—and again in 1664-5—

"I^{tm} p^{d} to William Lash for meate, bread, Beere, and Tobacco, when the two Companies were at his house at the Duke of Yorke's last being in Towne as appeares by bill, ij^{li} xiiij^{s}."

Jane Lash, the issuer of the above Token, was probably his widow.

The house known as the *King's Arms* stood formerly in the Swines' Market (now High Street), upon ground at present occupied by Messrs Watts and Son's wine vaults.—(*See Illus. No.* 7.)

O.—William Savidge... ... ... *a Wheatsheaf.*
R.—In Leicester, 1670 .. ... His Halfpeny.

A William Savage paid to the Corporation in 1677-8 two pounds yearly, for part of the house he dwelt in, called by the name or sign of the *White Swan* which he held under a lease for twenty-one years.

The Wheatsheaf shews William Savidge to have been either a publican or a baker; it being sometimes used by bakers instead of the usual arms.

O.—Nicholas Smith, Brewer ... ... *a Barrel.*
R.—In Licester, 1672 ... ... (illegible.)

This Nicholas Smith occupied land in the High Street (now High Cross Street), and a shop near the South-gates, for which he paid to the Corporation one shilling and sixpence per annum.

In 1664-5, Mr. Palmer, the Town Clerk of Leicester, died; and at his funeral the Corporation expended, in addition to £1. 10s. for cakes, eight shillings for "beere;" which was purchased of "Mr. Smith, Brewer."—*Chamberlains' Accounts for that year.*

O.—John Colson of Licester ... ... *Hound with Hare in its mouth, "The Hare and Hound."*
R.—Baker, his Halfpeny ... ... J. C. *with a true lover's knot.*
O.—John Mason in 62 ... ... *a Crown.*
R.—Lecster, Baker ... ... M. J. E.

John Mason, Baker, paid in 1677-8, to the Corporation, one pound one shilling, an annual payment "for the Colledge House and Garden

called St. Maries close heretofore sold to Job Lawnder in ffee ffarm." —*Chamberlains' Accounts.*

O.—Mary Movntney ... ... *a Crown.*
R.—Of Lecesiter ... ... M. M.

The Crown would be a popular sign in the beginning of the reign of Charles II. In 1662-3, George Mounteney, "a stranger," was made free, and paid £10. as his fine; he was an innkeeper, for in 1669-70 the Chamberlains paid him for ale 1s. An Inn known as *The Crown* formerly stood in Swines' Market (now High Street).

O.—Richard Noone ... ... *Grocers' Arms.*
R.—Of Leicester ... ... N. R. A.

Noone was a common name in Leicester. In 1655 Edward Noone was a mercer; James Ellis, an alderman, gave 26s. 8d. yearly to the head usher of the Free Grammar School, out of a house in the parish of All Saints, in the tenure of William Noone, sen., baker; in 1712, Wm. Noon (as a freeman) had £50. granted him from Sir Thomas White's charity; in 1713, Arthur Noone was elected Mayor, and in 1730, Wm. Noone was Chamberlain.—(*See Illus. No.* 8.)

O.—At the Red Lyon ... .. *a Lion Rampant.*
R.—In Lester Towne... ... ... N. W. I.

It will be observed that there is no name given upon this Token, but only the initials N. W. I. These initials I assign to William Newton (and perhaps Jane his wife), who was bound as an apprentice to Mr. Richard Barnes, vintner, and made a freeman of the town of Leicester on the seventh day of December, 1648. In the Chamberlains' Accounts for 1659-60 is the following entry:

"I^{tm} p^{d} to Wm Newton for ministers dinners that kept ffriday Lecture, and for wine this yeare £5. 8s. 8d."

That *The Red Lyon* was one amongst the principal Inns in Leicester is evident from the personages staying there: in 1655-6 the Mayor and Aldermen visited "the Major Generall att the Red Lyon;" in 1659-60 the Chamberlains paid for "Tobacco and pipes when the Maior and Aldermen went to visit Coll. Hacker, att the Red Lyon;" and upon the Coronation day of Charles the Second, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Councilmen, with "seaven gent^{n} ministers and others, and five servants" dined there, the Chamberlains paying £5. 12s. 8d. for their dinners, "beere and Tobacco." The Red Lion as a sign is thought by some to have had its rise in compliment to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, who married Constance, daughter of Pedro the Cruel, king of Castile, and upon the death of her father impaled the arms of Castile and Leon upon his shield, on a castle or, a shield argent, charged with a lion rampant, gules.—(*See Illus. No.* 9.)

In 1669-70, Mr. Wm. Newton was one of the Stewards of the Fairs.

O.—Tho. Overing Leicestr ... ... O. T. A.
R.—Vive la Roy .. .. *a Crown.*

Mr. Overing received his share of the patronage of Mr. Mayor and his brethren. In 1669 a Thomas Overing was Mayor.

O.—Iane Pallmer ... ... *a half-length female figure, "The Maiden Head."*
R.—In Lecesiter ... ... I. P.

The name of *Palmer* is everywhere a common one, owing to so many of the common people receiving that addition to their Christian name, upon their return from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, or the distant shrine of a popular saint; in 1336, *Robert the Palmer* occurs in a list of the inhabitants of Leicester, preserved in an ancient Tallage Roll, and transcribed by Mr. Thompson into his History of Leicester.

The female figure upon the obverse of this Token has led to some difference of opinion amongst collectors and those curious in these matters; most of them supposing it an approximation to the Mercers' arms, and that Jane Palmer was a Mercer; whilst one gentleman supposes it has some reference to the Virgin Mary. I hope I shall not shock this gentleman's feelings if I pronounce the figure to be a tavern sign, and state that Mrs. Jane Palmer was an innkeeper; my evidences for the latter supposition are the following extracts from the Chamberlains' accounts for the year 1666-7:—

"I^{tm} p^{d} to Mrs. Jane Palmer widow, for beere and ale to the Towne Hall and Gaynesborowe this year as appears by Bill, 19s. 6d.

"I^{tm} p^{d} for beere to Mrs. Jane Pallmer fetcht at sevall tymes to the Hall, 1s. 6d."

With reference to the figure, it most probably represents the Maiden's Head, or as it was generally called the "Maidenhead." In the year 1591, Wm. Hobbye paid 13s. 4d. per annum to the Corporation of Leicester "for a messuage or tenement wth thappurtenances called the Meyden headd and a garden thereunto belonging, lying on the East syde of St Mtyns churche," and which was then in his own occupation. It appears afterwards to have been occupied by "Goodwife Hobbie," from whom it probably passed into the hands of the Palmers.

The Maidenhead was a common sign at that period, and one adopted in compliment to Queen Catherine Parr, the last wife of Henry VIII., whose family bore for a crest, a female's head couped below the shoulders, habited az. on her head a wreath of roses (alternately ar. and gu.).

"Her forehead is pretty, somewhat resembling the forehead of the sign of the Maiden Head Inn."—(*The fair mayde of the Exchange*, 1607.)—(*See Illus. No.* 10.)

O.—William Spencer in .. ... His Half-peny.
R.—Leicester Bvtcher ... ... *Butchers' Arms.*

The Butchers' Company bear, az. two slaughter axes indorsed in saltire ar. handled or. betw. three bulls' heads couped of the second, armed of the third, viz. two in fesse, and one in base; on a chief arg. a boar's head couped gu. betw. two block brushes (i.e. bunches

of knee-holly) vert. *Crest*, on a wreath a flying bull arg. wings indorsed or, armed and hoofed of the last; over the head a small circle of glory ppr. *Supporters*, two flying bulls arg. winged, armed and hoofed or, over each head a small circle of glory ppr. *Motto*, OMNIA SUBJECISTI SUB PEDIBUS, OVES ET BOVES.—*Burke's Gen. Armory.*—(*See Illus. No.* 11.)

O.—Thomas Stvrges ... ... *Mercers' Arms.*

R.—Mercer in Leicester ... ... S. T. M.

In 1656, Thomas Sturges rented a messuage in the *Saturday Market* (the Market Place), then, or late in the tenure of John Loseby.

O.—Richard Woodroffe ... ... *Mercers' Arms.*

R.—In Lester Mercer ... ... W. R. M.

In 1654-5, Richard Woodrofe, an apprentice to William Slater, dry-chandler, was made free by order of a Common Hall, his fine being £2.

O.—Samvell Willson ... ... *Bakers' Arms.*

R.—In Lester Baker ... ... W. S. R.

My specimen of this Token was found in the Castle Yard, Leicester.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

O.—John Alen nere the ... ... *a Cross.*

R.—In Lovghbrovgh... ... ... J. A.

John Alen was a Feoffee of Burton's Charity. In 1652, he was with his fellows fined for misemploying the Charity funds, and was compelled to return about ninety pounds which he had abstracted, wherewith to build a house. He was bridgemaster (that is, had the care of public bridges near the town) in 1656 and 1664.

O.—Mathew Allain ... ... *Ironmongers' Arms.*

R.—Of Lovghborow ... ... A. M. A.

The Company of Ironmongers bear, argent on a chevron gules, between three steel Gads azure, as many Lockets capped or.—*Kent's Gram. of Heraldry.*—(*See Illus. No.* 20.)

O.—Robert Bunnys in ... ... *S. George and the Dragon.*

R.—Lovghborovgh, 1666 ... ... *Three Tuns and* C. T. *(?)*

The Company of Vintners bear, argent a chevron between three barrels, sable.—*Ibid.*

Robert Bunnys was a person of considerable public importance. He held the office of Bridgemaster in 1661, and was appointed Trustee, with seven others, of the bequests and charities of John and Bartholomew Hickling by the will of the latter, dated 4 June, 1683; that office descending to both heirs and assignees, as

the will runs, "for ever." His signature is appended, in attestation, to copies of the wills of both the Hicklings.

Most probably the *Three Tuns* was situate in the Church Gate, where the present public house of that name now stands, as such signs are often retained for centuries. S. George appears to have been held in some especial reverence and honor in the town, for we find in the Churchwardens' Accounts continual payments for ringing on his anniversary.—(*See Illus. No.* 19.)

O.—Henry Somervile at y^e .. ... S. H. M.
R.—Castle in Lovghborovgh ... ... His Halfpeny.

O.—Thomas Stokes against ... ... The Cross S. T. A.
R.—In Lovghborovgh ... ... His Halfpeny.

O.—John Varnam ... ... *a Wheat Sheaf.*
R.—In Lovghborow ... ... J. V. *and ornamental knot.*

John Varnam was Bridgemaster in 1667.

*O.—John Allen neare the ... ... *a Cross.*
R.—In Lovghbrovgh ... ... His Halfpeny.

(*See Illus. No.* 12.)

O.—John ..... 1665 ... ... *Mercers' Arms.*
*R.—In Lovghbvrrow... ... ... His Half-Peny.

O.—John Fowler of ... ... *the Grocers' Arms.*
R.—Loughborovgh ... ... F. I. K.

The Fowlers appear to have been a very old family in Loughborough. As far back as the earliest town documents extend, individuals of this name, and frequently with the same christian name, have held important offices. The subject of this note officiated several times as Churchwarden, and for the years 1668, 1670, 1674, and 1676, held the important office of Bridgemaster, which he appears to have discharged with exemplary fidelity. He was also a Feoffee of Burton's Charity.*

LUTTERWORTH.

O.—Peter Mackcarnes ... ... M. P. A.
R.—In Lvtterworth ... ... 1662.

O.—In Coventry, Southam .. ... W. H. E.
R.—Rvgby, Lvtterworth ... ... Dyer, 1666.

A Token with four names of locality upon it is very rarely met with; indeed, I think this one may be said to be unique in that respect.

O.—Edward Revell ... ... *S. George and the Dragon.*
R.—In Lvtterworth ... ... E. R.

* For the notes under the Loughborough Tokens, I am much indebted to the kindness and research of Mr. Edwin Goadby.

MEDBOURNE.

O.—George Ailmonde ... ... *a Man Standing.*

R.—In Medbvrn, 1667 ... ... A. G. E.

MELTON MOWBRAY.

O.—Arthvr Clovdsly ... ... *a Stick of Candles.*

R.—In Melton 1664 ... ... C. A. B.

(*See Illus. No.* 24.)

O.—Edward Stokes in ... ... *Grocers' Arms.*

R.—Melton Mowbray ... ... S. E. R.

The Stokes have been a highly respectable family in Melton for many years. Upon the first bell of the beautiful peal belonging to Melton Mowbray church, occurs (amongst the list of benefactors) the name of "Mr. Samuel Stokes," 1708.

O.—Roger Waite 1666 ... ... W. R. R. *and three bugle horns stringed.*

R.—In Melton Mowbray ... ... His Halfpeny.

The Waites were tenant farmers in Leicestershire as early as 15 Edward III., when William Wayte of Little Dalby, with Emma his wife, and William and John their sons, held lands for the term of their several lives, from John de Berkeley.—*Nichols' Hist. Leic.*

Roger Waite was churchwarden of Melton in 1656; and gave by will, 1693, one shilling a week to be distributed in money or bread to twelve of the oldest and poorest men or women in Melton. The three bugle horns upon the obverse of his Token, shew, I think, his family connection with the Waytes of Keythorpe, Leicestershire, who bore argent, a chevron between three bugle horns stringed sable. Thomas Wayte of Keythorpe, who died in 1642, was Receiver for his Majesty in the counties of Warwick and Leicester. A reference to *Burke's General Armory* will shew that the same arms are, or were borne by the Rev. D. G. Wait, LL.D., F.A.S., who was a descendant in the female line from the Killigrews, old Cornish baronets; and also by William Savage Wait, of Woodborough, near Bath, as well as by Wayte of Southampton, &c.

Nichols (*Framland Hund. p.* 269) informs us that the following arms were (in 1569) in Burton Lazars church; Argent, a chevron between three bugle horns stringed proper.—Burton Lazars, a hamlet belonging to Melton Mowbray, is situate between that place and Little Dalby. Did these arms belong to the Waytes of Leicestershire?

O.—Thomas Clowdesley ... ... C. T. S. *and true lover's knot.*

R.—Of Melton Mowbray 1668... ... His Halfpenny.

Thomas Clowdesley (probably the father of the above) was Churchwarden in 1619, and in 1630, Thomas Clowdesley, Gent., was a freeholder.

O.—Iohn Brown Chavndler ... ... { B. and a Stick of I. A. Candles.
R.—In Melton Mowbray ... ... His Halfpeny 1668.
O.—Robert Beatson at ... ... *Three Lambs.*
R.—In Melton Mobery ... ... B. R. E.
O.—Henry Croddyn in ... ... *on a shield a Cross moline.*
*R.—Melton Moberye ... ... C. H. A.

(Found since the reading of this Paper—1863.)

The following inscription was, according to Nichols, upon a slab in the north aisle of Melton Church,—"Henry Croddyn interred Jan. 3, 1699." The only specimen of this issue I have met with is in my possession. The Croddens appear to have been a Melton family, for in the Churchwardens' Accounts of the parish for 1612 is the following entry:

"Item to Rafe Croden and William Allyn for Four dayes and a halfe settinge up winders in the steepell..... ix^{s}."

MOUNTSORRELL.

O.—Jonas Davis 1665 ... ... *Grocers' Arms.*
R.—In Movnt-Sorell ... ... His Halfpeny.

In 1660 and following years, Jonas Davis of Mountsorrell, *Mercer*, paid four shillings for his freedom of Leicester on the market days; it thus appears (as it is not probable there were two men of this name in Mountsorrell) that then, as now, it was usual in villages to combine two or more trades in one establishment: He rented in Leicester a shop under the Gainsborough, which he occupied till about the year 1716, as in that year it was "set" to John Billers, a tobacconist, "at the same rate as that paid by Jonas Davy, of Mountsorrill."

O.—Ralph Bosse 1667 .. ... *Drapers' Arms.*
R.—Of Movntsorrill ... ... His Halfe Penny R. B.

Henry Bosse of Mountsorrell, perhaps brother to the above, a butcher, was free of the town of Leicester on market days, in 1664, and following years. I mention this to shew that Bosse was a name well known in Leicestershire (see under *Bagworth*).

O.—Joseph Lovett of... ... ... *a Roll of Tobacco. (?)*
R.—Movntsorill 1667 ... ... His Halfpeny.

SADDINGTON.

O.—Jonathan Talecote ... ... *two Tobacco Pipes, crossed.*
R.—Of Sadington Chandler ... ... His Halfpeny.

Several of the family of Tylecoat or Tilecoat are buried in Nailstone church; and Jeffery Tilecote, the son of Thomas and Frances Tilecote of Nailstone, was a draper in Market Bosworth, and died in 1771. Jonadas Tylecote was a baker in Leicester in 1715.

SHEEPSHEAD.

O.—Joseph Bruxby of ... ... *a Sheep's Head.*
*R.—Sheepshed 1667 ... . His Halfpeny.

WALTHAM.

O.—Henry Darker 1668 ... .. H. D.
R.—In Waltham his Halfe Penny.

The reverse is in four lines across the field, and the Token is octagonal in shape.—(*See Illus. No.* 18.)

O.—Henry Darcker .. .. His Halfe Peny.
*R.—In Waltham ... ... H. D.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley exhibited two views—a ground plan and details of the ancient mansion at Donington-on-the-Heath, in the parish of Ibstock, Leicestershire, and remarked that existing remains of Domestic Architecture of the thirteenth century are rare, and that this is an unusually perfect example. Donington was once the seat of William de Sees, whose daughter and heir married Alexander Villers, of Brokesby, Leicestershire, temp. Hen. III., to which period this mansion may be assigned. It consists of an oblong square, with two buildings projecting from the north side, from the western one of which there is a third building projecting still further northward. The entrance to the mansion was a pointed-arched doorway, reached by an external staircase, which led into the principal apartment or hall; below which, on the ground floor, was the kitchen. The original windows of the hall have been destroyed, with the exception of the small trefoiled light shown in the drawing over the present back door. Pointed-arched oaken doorways led from the hall into the sleeping rooms in the two adjoining projecting buildings. The kitchen on the ground-floor had narrow square lights: two of them (blocked up) remain in the west wall. Access was had from the hall to the kitchen probably by a staircase in the same position as the one now in use: whether there was any other entrance to it may be questioned. In the north wall of the kitchen is a spacious fire place, having a low arch with a chamfered edge. There was perhaps a staircase from the upper room of the eastern projection to the room on the ground-floor below it, now destroyed; traces of which are discernible. The door now leading into this room from the kitchen is modern. The lower room in the western projection seems to have had a door in the western wall, and to have been unconnected with the kitchen and further northern projection. The latter also seems to have been a distinct building, with a door in the eastern wall where

the modern window is, and a staircase, as now, leading to the upper room. There are indications of the windows having been closed with wooden shutters inside. The large windows with mullions, and the roofs are of the seventeenth century. The angles of the buildings are of long-and-short work. The barn opposite the house is probably coeval with it. Two fields adjoining are called the Large and Small Parks: another, the Park Mires, about three acres, was once a pool.

The views, &c., mentioned above, appeared in the volume of the Anastatic Drawing Society, for the year 1856.

The following new members were elected:—

The Rev. J. W. Fletcher, Mr. W. J. Gillett, and Mr. Thomas Miller.

April 27th, 1857.

The Rev. G. E. Gillett in the chair.

Mr. Thomas Nevinson exhibited a rubbing of the well-known brass of Abbot De-la-Mare, from S. Alban's Abbey. Its dimensions are 9 feet 3½ inches by 4 feet 3½ inches, and its whole surface is elaborately engraved. Under a rich canopy is the figure of the abbot, bearing a pastoral staff with the Agnus Dei in its head; his feet resting on two dragons. The robes of the abbot are richly embroidered with lions' faces, griffins, and human heads alternately with foliage. The canopy is composed of a series of niches containing figures of saints and angels. Under these are two larger figures—the one, Offa, king of Mercia, the founder of the Monastery; and the other, S. Alban. Beneath these, again, are twelve niches—six on either side, containing figures of apostles and saints. The whole of the background is diapered with trefoils containing griffins. The marginal inscription, which has never been completed, and is in Lombardic letters, runs thus: "Hic jacet Dominus Thomas quondam Abbas hujus Monasterii." At the corners are the evangelistic symbols, and at the sides are shields bearing, on a bend, three eagles displayed. The brass is evidently of foreign execution, and was engraved some time before the abbot's death, probably about 1390; he died in 1396.

Mr. Nevinson also exhibited a rubbing of the brass of Sir John D'Aubernoun, from Stoke Dabernon church, Surrey, of the date 1277. This brass is supposed to be the oldest example of this kind of sepulchral monument in existence, and is the only one of the time of Edward I. that is not cross-legged.

Mr. G. H. Nevinson produced part of a saucer-shaped vessel, a fragment of Samian ware, found in New Street, Leicester,

bearing the potter's mark "ROIPV" stamped in the centre. Also, a palmer's shell, having fourteen scriptural subjects relating to the crucifixion carved upon it in relief.

Mr. G. C. Neale exhibited four coins in remarkably good preservation:—a silver penny of William Rufus, with the legend on the reverse, "Leopold on Pinc": a silver sixpence and threepence of Elizabeth, and a crown of the Commonwealth.

Mr. North sent an impression of a curious seal found in Bedfordshire, and contributed by way of illustration the following short Paper upon

MERCHANTS' MARKS.

I exhibit an impression of an ancient brass seal, found some years since, suspended from a hook in a window of an old house in Bedfordshire. It evidently belongs to the class of seals known to antiquaries as "Merchants' Marks." Seals of this description have been used by merchants and traders from a very early period. Mr. C. Roach Smith (vide his *Collectanea Antiqua*, vol. III., p. 198), gives an account of some impressions in lead of Roman seals found in Suffolk and elsewhere, which he supposes to have been of this description; and specimens of those used by English and Continental merchants occasionally met with, or copies of their devices found upon tombs, as, for instance, upon the tomb of William Canynge, of Bristol, or upon ecclesiastical buildings, as in the case of that of Gaulter Framton, merchant, dated 1357, in the church of S. John Baptist, Bristol, to which he had probably been a benefactor (vide Newton's *Display of Heraldry*), show that they were extensively used by merchants in the middle ages.

The merchant's mark proper is generally of a very rude character, so rude as to lead one to surmise that it might formerly have been used by illiterate merchants as a signature, more especially as many terminate with a cross; others, however, are formed by a device, the prominent part of which is the initial or initials of the owner's name: a mark of this kind is to be seen in the old church, at Hull, and an instance will be familiar to the student of local history as formerly existing in the window of Wiggeston's Hospital, Leicester. Others, again, gave the name of the owner round the mark; this occurred, it will be remembered, upon the seal of Roger Dyvet exhibited at one of our recent meetings.* These marks were usually adopted by those who did not bear arms, but the tomb of William Canynge, of Bristol, in the church of S. Mary, Redcliffe, already mentioned, shows by

* This curious seal was found in Leicester. Dyvet is a name formerly common in Rutland: thus in the Court Roll for the Hundred of Casterton Parva, recording the proceedings of the 7th October, 9 Henry VII., Johanna Dyvet is amerced two shillings as a common brewer who neither exposed a sign, nor called the frankpledge to taste her beer as she ought. Thomas Burton, gentleman, is amerced two-

giving both his arms and his merchant's mark, that occasionally both were used. The merchant's mark, or brand, should not be confounded with the rebuses used so commonly upon seals in the fourteenth and following centuries; these usually made some punning allusion to the name of the user: thus one John Eagleshead gave as his seal an eagle's head; the Abbot of Ramsey bore a ram in a sea; Islip, Abbot of Westminster, represented his by a man slipping out of a tree, and supposed to be exclaiming "I slip" (vide Lower's *Curiosities of Heraldry*, p. 125), whilst our own Wiggeston, the founder of the Hospital in Leicester, used two *wings* issuing from a *tun*.*

The impression I now exhibit was kindly sent to me by a correspondent of "*Notes and Queries*." It will be observed that it is of rather an elaborate character; the lower part is heart-shaped, enclosing the letters H. N. and a rose or star; from the heart issues a common device which approximates somewhat to the figure 4, above which is an antlered deer couchant, the whole being enclosed in a legend of unpointed Hebrew characters, which is translated "Naphtali is a hind let loose" (Gen. xlix 21). Had the initials been reversed there could have been little doubt from the inscription, that the owner's name was Naphtali Hind: nevertheless, there is every probability that the legend does refer in some way to the initials, and that the antlered deer, used as a kind of crest, refers to both, for it should be remembered that the hind or female of the reindeer, as well as the male, is provided by nature with horns.

It may be worth observing that seals similar to those mentioned above are still in use; a Bavarian merchant now uses one consisting of a heart from which a cross surmounted by the figure 4 issues, initial letters being introduced (see "*Notes and Queries*," vol. ii., p. 409). Whether he uses this seal as an antiquarian curiosity, or whether it is the lingering representative of an almost departed custom, I cannot determine.

pence for an affray upon Robert Dyvett; and Robert Dyvett is amerced three shillings and fourpence for drawing blood from Thomas Burton. Robert Dyvett is further fined for allowing a gate to be always open "which ought always to be closed."

* An example of this may still be seen carved in wood upon one of the porches in the front of Wiggeston's Hospital.

Mr. James Thompson contributed the following Paper upon

WIGSTON'S HOSPITAL, LEICESTER.

WITHIN a few yards of the apartment in which this Society holds its sittings stands the venerable, if lowly, Hospital of one of Leicester's greatest benefactors—William of Wigston. It is a building which will well bear examination in its various details. The old porches, quaintly carved, are not the least worthy the antiquary's notice; but the principal feature inside is the Chapel. An application from Mr Justin Simpson, the compiler of the *List of Sepulchral Brasses of England*, to inform him of the name and date of the Brass in this Hospital, induced me to visit the Chapel on the 13th of March, with the view of providing authentic information. When I entered the building I found so much to attract attention, and which deserved retaining in memory, especially now that the entire fabric is threatened with destruction, that I resolved on reducing to writing the few notes made on the occasion.

Before doing so, however, it may be useful to shew what was the condition of the Chapel when last examined with a view to being described in the pages of a Local History. In the year 1790, Nichols noted that the interior was lighted by three windows; one on the south side, another on the east, and another on the west. Of the first he says,—"The south window originally contained much fine painted glass, which in 1760 was greatly defaced, but so lately as 1790 several fragments remained." These the historian specifies. They were the founder's arms; a second shield, a third, a fourth, a griffin holding a flag, two figures praying to the Virgin, and a label commemorative of the foundation of the Hospital. In the east window the twelve Apostles had originally been figured in the glass, and several remains of them were then visible. In the west window were the four Evangelists, nearly entire. In the year 1807, the historian found the east and west windows had been blocked up, and the fine old south window replaced by a modern one, in which only five small pieces of the painted glass had been retained. The small gallery had been plastered over and whitewashed, and the whole looked "very neat."

Fifty years have elapsed since Mr. Nichols made his last minutes of the Chapel. But little alteration has taken place in the interval. The only window open for the admission of light is the south window, the other two being yet closed. In the south window are three portions of painted glass; one, the shield of Wigston. In the centre of the floor lies the Brass to the memory of the first master, William Fisher, and near to it an incised slab,

on which the name "Cecilia" may be deciphered. Beneath the east and west windows are the old benches, with the end panels carved in the late Gothic style of the date of the building; and between them and the south wall, on each side of the Chapel, parallel with the east and west walls, are wooden seats with wainscots in the napkin pattern. The pulpit stands below the south window, and on the ground on each side of it, between it and the wooden seats, are two chairs. Below and in front of the pulpit is the Communion Table. Pulpit, chairs, and table, seem to be of the date of the introduction of the reformed worship. Above the entrance to the Chapel, from the passage along the centre of the building, is the gallery. There are two ancient mural monuments. One of these, on the south wall and on the right hand side of the pulpit, is in memory of Richard Clarke, M.A., one of the masters of the Hospital, who died in the year 1684: his arms, impaling Harrison, are delineated on a shield. Near to this is the principal monument. It records the decease of Geoffrey Johnson, Confrater of the Hospital in the reign of Elizabeth. Below his epitaph his coat armorial is sculptured. Above the inscription is another shield, equally decorated with helmet and other heraldic adjuncts. This tablet is completely obscured with thick whitewash, which ought to be cleared away in order that the rich carving may be seen to proper advantage.

The Rev. G. E. Gillett mentioned a curious discovery in a stone-pit, near Waltham in this county, of a large quantity of human bones which had been buried apparently in a trench. It is remarkable that no skulls were found amongst them.

After the close of the General Meeting it was resolved in Committee that the Annual General Meeting and Excursion of the Society take place at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on the 5th and 6th of August next, and a Sub-Committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

June 17th, 1857.

Special Meetings of the Committee were held on the 17th June and on the 29th of June, when the days for the General Meeting and Excursion were altered to the 28th and 29th July next.

July 28th, 1857.

ANNUAL MEETING AND EXCURSION.

At a special meeting of the Committee, held at the Bath Rooms, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, the accounts for the year 1856 were passed, and the Annual Report prepared for presentation to the meeting of members to be held at four o'clock.

The Local Committee, on whom it devolved to make all the arrangements for the museum and excursion, consisted of the Revds. J. M. Gresley, M. Webster, and J. Denton; Messrs. E. Fisher, Jun., M. J. Joyce, and J. T. Woodhouse. At the close of the meeting of the Committee, the members of the Society and their friends, among whom were the Right Honble. Earl Howe, and the Right Honble. the Earl Ferrers, proceeded to inspect the ruins of the Castle.

This is indeed a fine old ruin, and presents in several instances a truly wonderful preservation. The principal tower remains, with the exception of the south side of it, and the winding staircase which conducts the visitor to the top has been restored. When there, a beautiful view meets the eye on every side which well rewards the toil. There is a beautifully ornamented chimney-piece which has evidently graced the uppermost room, and which is well worthy the attention of modern architects. The chapel is about eighty feet in length and thirty broad, and the height is in admirable proportion. Just inside, on the right hand, is a winding staircase leading to the western gallery, and at the opposite end, above where once stood the altar, is a very large window. One hundred and thirty years ago this chapel was entirely roofed over, and the tracery still remained in the windows. The end walls of the banqueting hall are supposed to be of masonry of the time of King John, but the sides are of a somewhat later date, having been altered about the reign of James the First. The kitchen occupies a large space of ground, and had a very high vaulted roof. On one side is a fireplace and chimney on a gigantic scale. In one corner there has been a winding staircase leading into a room above and also to the top of the castle; but the whole of the steps with the exception of a few at the bottom have been entirely destroyed. A doorway opens into a subterranean passage, which is supposed to communicate with an old building in an adjoining field. A great portion of this fine old ruin is now enveloped in a beautiful clothing of ivy which the growth of years has woven and interwoven with the stonework in every possible way. Leaving the main building the company proceeded to examine one of the two brick round towers (which are situated to the south of the Castle, at the two extremities of the garden and pleasure grounds) which appears to have been a sort of summer-house rather than any

means of defence. Near to this tower they were shown two or three trees which were planted by Lord Moira about thirty-five years before (who was at that time Marquis of Hastings) and were told that another was planted at the same time by Lady Flora Hastings, but this one died soon after the unhappy demise of its planter. It is perhaps unnecessary to remark that these ruins are the property of the Hastings family, and that the Castle itself forms the scene of Sir Walter Scott's interesting novel, Ivanhoe.

The Church was the next place visited, where were many very interesting relics. Just at the entrance is a peculiar instrument of punishment, viz., finger stocks, which are on the same principle as stocks for the feet except that the finger has to be inserted into a perpendicular hole as well as being held down horizontally, instead of being only fastened like the feet. It is supposed to be about one hundred and fifty years old; but there is no ornament about it from which to derive any information. Another object of great interest is a screen dividing the chancel from the body of the Church, which was erected probably near the close of the seventeenth century. Although this screen is not at all in keeping with the rest of the edifice, it is undoubtedly a fine specimen of carving; and there is another piece, concealing the greater part of the chancel window, immediately over the communion table. There is a most remarkable monument of Lady Catherine Hastings in the Hastings chapel. She wears the barb, and a kind of narrow apron called a train which is fastened by a girdle at the waist. She lies by the side of Francis, Earl of Huntingdon, who is attired as a Knight of the Garter, wearing the mantle of the order, the garter below the knee, and the S. George and dragon collar round the neck. The inscription states that Lady Catherine Hastings died on the 23rd of September, 1576, and the Earl on the 11th of June, 1561. In a corner of the Church there is a very curious marble slab to the memory of Robert Munday and his two wives, dated 1526. It was discovered beneath the church floor about thirty years ago, when some alterations in the arrangement of the pews were made. When he died he left a piece of land for an obit, which was afterwards appropriated to the Grammar School. In a recess in the north wall is a most remarkable specimen of monumental effigy. It consists of the recumbent figure of a man with his feet reclining upon a dog or bear, but which it is perhaps impossible to say. He is attired in a dress called Sclavine, and has a staff, beads, and a collar of SS. There is no inscription, but it is generally supposed that he is one of the Hastings family who went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The general character of the monument would lead to the conclusion that it was erected in the fifteenth century.* Above the gallery, on the right of the pulpit, is a tablet inserted in the wall bearing date 1623, to the memory of

* See page 91.

Margery Wright. She is dressed in a high peaked hat, and has a broad frill round her neck, and a little muff in her hands. Up a flight of spiral narrow steps from the vestry is a room, believed to be a *domus inclusi*, or room which was set apart for any person who wished to retire from the world and live in solitude. There has been in it a window which overlooked the high altar, but it is now blocked up.

THE MUSEUM.

THE exhibition of antiquities was held in the Bath Room, and was the largest and the most valuable ever held in this county. It is much to be regretted that a portion of the manuscript descriptive of the contents of this temporary museum was mislaid by a gentleman connected with a local newspaper, and was never recovered. The following list, however, comprises many of the articles exhibited, in addition to which there was a fine collection of rubbings of monumental brasses, and a large number of extremely curious and valuable books of local interest.

Large stone celt, found near the Manor House, Chartley, Staffordshire, in 1851.—*The Earl Ferrers.*

Stone celt, formerly in Dr. Kirkland's Museum at Ashby-de-la-Zouch.—*Miss Gresley.*

Flint weapon for holding in the hand, from the same collection.—*Miss Gresley.*

Celt found in 1807 upon Ashby Woulds.—*W. Dewes, Esq.*

Roman spear-head, from Dorchester, Oxfordshire.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Saxon dagger-handle, from Dorchester, Oxfordshire.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Saxon spear-head, from the Watling-street, near Bensford-bridge, Leicestershire (See Bloxam's *Monumental Architecture*, p. 44.)—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

A figure in black cap-a-pie suit; consisting of helmet and plume, gorget, pauldrons, arm-pieces and gauntlets, back and breast-plates, lobster cuisses, jambs, and sollerets.—*Sir G. H. Beaumont, Bart.*

A figure in a three-quarter black suit; consisting of helmet with barred vizor and plume, gorget, pauldrons, arm-pieces and gauntlets, back and breast-plates, lobster cuisses, and leather boots.—*Sir G. H. Beaumont.*

Breast-plate, back-plate, and helmet.—*T. B. Dalby, Esq.*

Ancient cross-bow.—*The Earl Ferrers.*

Small battle-axe, 17 inches long, and sword, found in the Minster Pool, Lichfield.—*C. Gresley, Esq.*

Sword, with an engraving of the Crucifixion on one side; and on the other CRISTVS. HAT. SEIN. BLVET. VERGOSEEN. IESVS BEHEIT. MICH. VOR. ALEN. WAFEN. VND. GSHEN. AVGENSTIN. HVETER.—MDLVIII.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Sword inscribed SANS PEVR ET SANS REPROCHE.—*Sir G. Beaumont, Bart.*

Andrea Ferrara Sword, from Edge Hill.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*
Sword of the time of King Charles I., from Naseby Field.—*Ibid.*
Sword of the time of King Charles I.—*M. I. Joyce, Esq.*
Rapier, of the time of King James I.—*R. Thornewell, Esq.*
Five swords, two of them with silver hilts.—*T. B. Dalby, Esq.*
Highland sword.—*T. C. Dewes, Esq.*
Toledo sword; brass mounted rapier; clamore; sword from Waterloo; and two others.—*The Earl Ferrers.*
A New Zealand sword.—*Ibid.*
Indian dagger, found in the Minster Pool, Lichfield, seventy years ago, and supposed to have been taken from the Museum at Oxford.—*G. T. Lomax, Esq.*
Misericordia, or Coup de Grace, sword.—*Ibid.*
An Indian sword made of wood and teeth.—*Miss Matthews.*
Bayonet, scabbard, and ornaments, from Bomersund.—*The Earl Ferrers.*
Lady's dagger in ornamented steel sheath.—*Rev. J. Denton.*
Four arrow-heads and a bird-bolt, found in the moat at Clarendon, Wiltshire.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*
Powder-flask, of the sixteenth century, engraved with a wild boar attacking a sportsman.—*Ibid.*
Powder-flask of the sixteenth century, of wood, inlaid with ivory carvings, representing a sportsman shooting a goat; and a cottage, and well.—*Ibid.*
Prick-spur from Clarendon, Wilts; and two of later date.—*Ibid.*
Spur worn by Sir Ralph Shirley in the battle of Stoke, where he was made a knight-banneret by King Henry VI., 1447.—*The Earl Ferrers.*
Two Mexican spurs.—*Ibid*
Three large Spanish spurs.—*R. Thornewell, Esq.*
Two Highland pistols, beautifully chased.—*The Earl Ferrers.*
Six halberds, from Burton-on-Trent.—*R. Thornewell, Esq.*
Four knives, found in the Minster Pool, Lichfield.—*C. Gresley, Esq.*
Canon-ball, found at the Breach, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch. *Rev. J. M. Gresley.*
Part of a canon-ball, from the wall of Aberysthwyth Castle.—*The Earl Ferrers.*
Four New Zealand clubs.—*Ibid.*
Antique gold ring, enamelled, with head of a Roman Emperor in cornelian.—*Rev. M. Vavasour.*
Lamp, vase, and lachrymatory, dug up at Cuma in 1856.—*The Earl Ferrers.*
Fragments of glass mosaic, from the mosque (formerly the church) of St. Sophia, Constantinople, built by the Emperor Justinian, A.D. 531-538.—*Rev. M. Webster.*
Runic wooden Almanack; formerly in the Museum of R. Green, Esq., Lichfield.—*G. T. Lomax, Esq.*
Seven specimens of Kimmeridge coal money.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*
Saxon vitrified bead, from Shakerstone, Leicestershire.—*Ibid.*
Saxon fibula and three beads from Swarkestone Lowes, Derbyshire.—*Ibid.*
Stone, terra cotta, and amber beads.—*Ibid.*

Metal pestle and mortar for pounding incense: round the side, LAVS DEO SEMPER, AO 1632.—*Rev. M. Vavasour.*

Beautifully carved diminutive figures of the B. V. Mary and our Lord, and the head of S. Peter.—*T. B. Dalby, Esq.*

Crucifix, brought from Sebastopol by Sir Stephen Lakeman.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Jubilee crucifix, eighteenth century.—*Sir G. H. Beaumont, Bart.*

Brass tryptich worn by the Russian soldiers.—*Ibid.*

Ciborium, of latten gilt, of the fifteenth century, formerly used at Church-Enstone, Oxfordshire.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Magnificent chalice, richly embossed, chased, and set with six miniature enamels and three hundred and fifty-four precious stones. The enamels represent the Annunciation, the Salutation, the Nativity, the Adoration, the Presentation, and our Lord disputing with the Jewish doctors. This superb work of the sixteenth or seventeenth century has been from an unknown period in the possession of the family of the exhibitor.—*The Earl Howe.*

Paten belonging to the same chalice, entirely without ornament.—*Ibid.*

Three carved shells from Jerusalem, with SS. Mary, Peter, and Paul, the Last Supper, the Crucifixion, and other sacred subjects.—*A. L. Phillipps, Esq.*

Rosary of amber beads.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Pulpit hour-glass stand, from Congerstone church, Leicestershire.—*Ibid.*

An Apostle's spoon (S. Paul).—*Miss M. Gresley.*

Iron mace, supposed to have belonged to the Guild of St. Mary, Lichfield. *G. T. Lomax, Esq.*

Silver Recorder's mace of the late Corporation of Leicester.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Sugar basin of beaten silver and embossed, 1669.—*Rev. M. Vavasour.*

Chronometer taken from the camp of Tippoo Saib, at Seringapatam, and burnt in the fire at Chartley, 1847.—*The Earl Ferrers.*

Antique watch, with pierced silver case, engraved with foliage, fox, and dogs' heads.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Rings: gold, from a stone coffin at Stamford, R. S. fourteenth century; another with a black diamond from Gloucester Cathedral. Silver: found near Loughborough, fourteenth century: another, from Leicester, same date: a talismanic ring: two from Abingdon abbey. Brass wedding ring, and another with the letter R.—*Ibid.*

Model of a hunting horn, carved out of an elephant's tusk, by Benvenuto Cellini: the original was burnt in 1847 at Chartley Castle.—*The Earl Ferrers.*

Queen Elizabeth's virginal, with the royal arms and supporters, beautifully painted and gilt.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Five soles of old English shoes, found at Lichfield.—*C. Gresley, Esq.*

Portrait of Queen Elizabeth in needlework.—*Mrs. Davys.*

Embroidered gloves, collar, and bridal knife-sheath, of the sixteenth century.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Head of King Charles II. in needlework.—*Rev. M. Vavasour.*

Portrait of a Queen in needlework, with the lion and unicorn.—*Mrs. Davys.*

Embroidered toilet pincushion, bag, purse, and spray of bead work.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Piece of tapestry, with a tree, peacocks, butterflies, hare, &c,—*Mrs. Davys.*

Richly embroidered cap, with coat of arms.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Cross and monogram, designed by Rev. J. Denton, and worked by Jones and Willis of Birmingham.—*Rev. J. Denton.*

Small table spinning wheel.—*T. B. Dalby, Esq.*

Bird of the rudest early English pottery, with green glaze, perhaps of the twelfth or thirteenth century, from the Minster Pool, Lichfield. —*C. Gresley, Esq.*

Tall jug of red earthenware, dug up in Breedon churchyard, Leicestershire.—*The Earl Ferrers.*

Large circular earthenware dish, of the seventeenth century, with two females crowned in the centre, and GOD SAVE VS ALL.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Costrel, or leathern bottle, of the seventeenth century, stamped with the letters I.S., stars, and fleur de lis.—*Ibid.*

Black leathern jack, lined with pitch, 21½ inches in height, with the royal crown over the date 1646, between the letters C. R.—*Ibid.*

Circular earthenware dish of the time of King Charles I., with a painting of a queen with crown, globe, and sceptre.—*Ibid.*

Another of the same period, with a painting of a Cavalier on horseback. —*Ibid.*

Another rather later, with a figure in armour standing, and the letters D. O.—*Ibid.*

A German canette.—*G. T. Lomax, Esq.*

Two gres de Flandres jugs, with G. R. crowned.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Basin with flowers and the head of the Pretender.—*Rev. M. Vavasour.*

Two gres de Flandres jugs.—*C. Gresley, Esq.*

Two white dishes of the earliest Gresley pottery ware, circa 1800.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Small old wedgewood teapot.—*Mrs. Marshall.*

Two china saucers.—*Rev. M. Vavasour.*

Three china plates.—*Miss Swinnerton.*

A jug once belonging to Sir Isaac Newton.—*Miss Matthews.*

Two china plates.—*Mrs. Marshall.*

Two Chinese teapots with silver spouts.—*Rev. M. Vavasour.*

Chinese teacup and saucer.—*Ibid.*

Dresden china ornament.—*Ibid.*

China teapot and other articles.—*Mrs. Beadsmore.*

Two old coffee cups.—*Mrs. Marshall.*

Three china dishes.—*Miss Swinnerton.*

Three china plates.—*Rev. M. Vavasour.*

A large plate.—*Ibid.*

Curious German glass.—*Ibid.*

Charter of William Earl Ferrers, confirming the grant by Ralph de Seile to Ralph de Gresley, of his mill at Seile; with the Earl's seal; twelfth century.—*Sir Thos. Gresley, Bart.*

Charter of Ralph de Gresley, founder of the Preceptory of Hether, Leicestershire, granting land to Merevale Abbey, with his seal; twelfth century.—*Ibid.*

Twelve charters of Ralph de Seile, Leicestershire, some with fine seals, being grants of land to Merevale Abbey, Warwickshire, &c., in the twelfth century.—*Sir Thomas Gresley, Bart.*

The Seile Cartulary, containing transcripts of charters relating to lands in Seile, Leicestershire, and other Lordships of Thomas de Rideware, with curious drawings: a MS. on vellum, of the reign of King Edward II. See *Nichols' Leicestershire*, vol. iii. part 2, p. 999.—*Ibid.*

Cartulary of Walley Abbey, Lancashire, consisting of 846 pages, ending with the year 1374.—*The Earl Howe.*

Final agreement made at Westminster between Imbert, Prior of Wenloc, Salop, and Robert de Hatton, concerning the custom and service which the Prior exacted for land in Hatton: 21 Henry III. (1236). —*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Court Roll, on parchment, of the manor of Shepeshead, 33 Edward III. —*Ibid.*

MS. Graduale, folio, with musical notes and some fine coloured capital letters: *Liber Conventus Sancte Agnetis de Boorn.—A. L. Phillipps, Esq.*

MS. book of Homilies, in Latin, fourteenth century.—*Ibid.*

Office of the B. V. M., MS., with numerous beautiful paintings, fifteenth century.—*Ibid.*

Dutch Devotional, MS.—*Ibid.*

Dutch MS., with pictures and illuminations, 1501.—*Ibid.*

MS. of the Psalms, on paper.—*Ibid.*

Deed relating to the election of Alice Dunwich to be Prioress of Grace Dieu, April 8th, 1418, with a fragment of the conventual seal.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Signature of the Earl of Leicester, of the time of Queen Elizabeth.—*Miss Singleton.*

On vellum, framed :—" This is the cote of armes of Ihon Chambers (of Gaddesby), and Mary Chambers his heire, who was mother unto William Barones," circa 1600. See *Nichols' Leicestershire*, vol. iii., pt. 2, p. 970.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Leicestershire Visitation in 1619, commencing with the armorial bearings of the town of Leicester, followed by those of the nobility and gentry of the county. Original MS.—*Ibid.*

Autograph of Edward Hastings, Knight of the Garter, 1556.—*Ibid.*

George Hastings, Earl of Huntingdon, his acquittance for coal and conduct money, 1598.—*Ibid.*

Letter of George, Duke of Rutland, 1625.—*Ibid.*

MS. heads for the settlement of the manor of Theddingworth and Owthorp on Sir R. Cotton and Elizabeth his wife, circa 1600.—*Ibid.*

Certificate of the gentry and clergy of Leicestershire, respecting the character of George Belgrave, of Belgrave, on occasion of his being left out of the Commission, 1601.—*Ibid.*

Autographs of Joseph Hall, Bishop of Norwich, to receipts of the rent of the manor of North Creak, Norfolk, 1643-6.—*Ibid.*

Roll indented of the names and surnames of all such persons within the hundreds of Appletree and Wirksworth wapentage as have agreed to lend to his Majesty these sums of money following after the rate of their subsidies according to their last assessment for the defence

of his Majesty's kingdoms and maintenance of religion, &c , made before us the last day of January, in the second year of his Majesty's reign (Charles I.). Signed by W. Devonshire, Henry Shirley, H. Wilughby, R. Harpur, Henry Agard, Fra. Coke, Henry Leigh, John Manners, John Curzon, and others, with seven seals.—*I. H. Stevens, Esq.*

Thomas Kelsey's Commission as Captain-Lieutenant of a company of foot under Colonel Charles Fleetwood, under the hand and seal of Edward Earl of Manchester, March 24th, 1643.—*Rev. M. Webster.*

Thomas Kelsey's Commission as Sergeant-Major in Colonel Edward Montague's regiment of foot, under the hand and seal of Thomas Fairfax, Commander-in-Chief: April 2nd, 1645.—*Ibid.*

Thomas Kelsey's Commission as Lieutenant-Colonel in Ingoldsby's regiment of foot, under the hand and seal of T. Fairfax, Commander-in-Chief: December 22nd, 1645.—*Ibid.*

An order to Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Kelsey to take charge of the garrison of Oxford, and to keep and defend it for the service of the Parliament and Commonwealth, May 1st, 1650, under the hand and seal of the Lord General T. Fairfax.—*Ibid.*

Appointment of Thomas Kelsey as Governor of Dover Castle, with the signature of John Bradshaw, President of the Council of State, appointed by authority of Parliament, and the seal of the Council, May 15th, 1651.—*Ibid.*

Appointment of Thomas Kelsey as Governor of Dover Castle, signed by O. Cromwell, and sealed with his family crest and arms: June 2nd, 1651.—*Ibid.*

Appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Kelsey to be Lieutenant of Dover Castle, signed "Oliver P." January 3rd, 1653.—*Ibid.*

Appointment under the Protector's sign-manual, of Thomas Kelsey as Major-General and Commander-in-Chief within the counties of Kent and Surrey, 1655.—*Ibid.*

Minute of a Council held at Guilford, August 11th, 1656, at which Thomas Kelsey, Esq., Major-General of the county, was "admitted to the Guild of the said Town freely without fine."—*Ibid.*

A Pardon with the great seal attached, granted by King Charles II. to Thomas Kelsey, citizen and draper of London, and formerly a Colonel in the Roundhead army, A.D. 1660.—*Ibid.*

Appointment of Henry Long to be Captain of a company of Militia foot in the regiment of Colonel Baynton, April 7th, 1660, by the Council of State; signed by Arthur Annesly, President, General Monk, Lord Shaftesbury, &c. &c.—*Ibid.*

Autograph signature of Sir Arthur Hesilrige, Feb. 5th, 1651.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Autograph signature of Sir Wolstan Dixie, founder of Market Bosworth Grammar School, 1633.—*Ibid.*

Autograph signatures of Lord Howard, of Escrick, Sir Harry Vane, Thomas Grey, and other regicides.—*Ibid.*

Autograph letter of King Charles II. to Lady Shirley, wife of Sir Robert Shirley, Bart., who was poisoned in the Tower, dated Brussells, 20th October, 1657.—*The Earl Ferrers.*

Sixteen coats of arms of the nobility and gentry of Leicestershire, temp. Car. II., beautifully emblazoned.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Form for a certificate for burial in woollen: end of the seventeenth century.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Two letters of Ant. Blackwall, Master of Market Bosworth School, 1725. —*Ibid.*

Original grant, on vellum, from the Heralds' College, by John Anstis, Esq., Garter, and Sir John Vanbrugh, Knt., Clarenceux, of a coat of arms to Andrew Dominick, of Great Marlow, Bucks; viz., vert, two chevronels ermine, in chief a naval crown between two lions' heads erased or, langued gules; crest on a wreath of his colours, a stag seiant or, attired, and about his neck a naval crown gules, reposing his dexter foot on an antique shield vert: the arms emblazoned.—*Ibid.*

Letter from John Nichols, historian of Leicestershire, to William Hamper, Esq., 1811.—*Ibid.*

The genealogy of the ancient and knightly families of Cave and Brown, deduced to the Rev. W. A. C. B. Cave, clerk, M.A., &c. By J. C. Disney, Esq., Somerset Herald, and G. Harrison, Esq., Blue Mantle, with a shield of arms containing one hundred and thirty quarterings; A.D. 1840.—*Rev. W. A. C. B. Cave.*

Painting of our Lord, the three Marys, and S. John, by Francia, A.D. 1450—1517.—*A. L. Phillipps, Esq.*

Painting of the B. V. Mary and our Lord, surrounded by cherubs, by Pinturicchio, A.D. 1454-1513.—*Ibid.*

The adoration of the Magi, probably by Mabuse.—*T. C. Dewes, Esq.*

S. John the Baptist, Corregio School.—*Ibid.*

Two paintings,—Pilate washing his hands; and two monks reading.—*H. Brown, Esq.*

Engravings, in a frame, of King Charles I., Archbishop Laud, and Lord Strafford, arranged so that only one can be seen at once.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Copies in water-colour, formerly in the collection of the Duke of Buckingham, of the portraits at Belvoir Castle, of Francis, sixth Earl of Rutland; George, seventh Earl; John, eighth Earl, and Frances his wife.—*Ibid.*

Framed partrait of Lady Selina Hastings, transferred upon glass from a print, and painted.—*Mrs. J. Davys.*

Painting of a female with flowers.—*Miss Matthews.*

Two framed pictures of deer and sheep.—*C. Matthews, Esq.*

Framed engraving of Milton.—*Miss Swinnerton.*

Drawing of a charter, with seal, of Bertram de Verdun, founder of Croxden Abbey, Staffordshire: twelfth century.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Facsimile of the foundation charter of Croxden Abbey, Staffordshire, 1179, with seal of Bertram de Verdun.—*Ibid.*

Eight water-colour drawings of Alton Abbey and Castle, Staffordshire.—*Ibid.*

Nine unpublished prints of Croxden Abbey, Staffordshire, by Mrs. J. M. Gresley.—*Ibid.*

Water-coloured drawings of Norton-juxta-Twycross Church, 1841, stained glass windows in Twycross church, chalice and paten at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, wild cattle in Chartley Park, by Mrs. J. M. Gresley.—*Ibid.*

Water-colour drawings of Lichfield and Bristol Cathedrals.—*Ibid.*

A portfolio of thirty-eight unpublished prints of churches, monuments, seals, military and domestic edifices, &c., in Ashby-de-la-Zouch and the neighbourhood, by Mrs. J. M. Gresley.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Blackfordby Church, Leicestershire, 1856, by Mrs. J. Denton.—*Rev. J. Denton.*

Plans and specifications of the proposed new church at Blackfordby.—*H. I. Stevens, Esq.*

Pedley's antiquities of Ashby Castle.—*Ibid.*

A portfolio of prints, water-coloured drawings, and sketches of churches, &c.—*Rev. J. Denton.*

Large portfolio of drawings and prints of churches, pavements, charters, castles, &c.—*H. I. Stevens, Esq.*

Views in Athens.—*Rev. M. Webster.*

Views in Nesmes.—*Ibid.*

Antique seal of the head of Homer, and two others: presented by Cardinal Gonsalvi to Sir Thomas Lawrence. See *The Mirror*, No. 217.—*Rev. A. Bloxam.*

Signet ring from the Catacombs.—*Miss M. Gresley.*

A collection of thirty three casts from signets found in the Catacombs at Rome.—*Ibid.*

Sigillum Ælfrici A., found at Winchester. He was earl or alderman of Mercia near the end of the tenth century.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Cast of five ancient seals of the Ferrers and Shirley families.—*The Earl Ferrers.*

Sigill. Wilhelmi de Gresley: a cast from an impression of the thirteenth century.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Seal of Barton Oratory, of the Holy Trinity, Isle of Wight: date circa A.D. 1270, from the deed of surrender, A.D. 1539.—*A. L. Phillipps, Esq.*

Seal of Walter Trengoff, the last arch-priest of Barton Oratory, Isle of Wight: date 18 Henry VI., A.D. 1439.—*Ibid.*

Sigillum Ecclesiæ Sanctæ Maria de Suwira.—*Ibid.*

Seal with coat of arms.—*Ibid.*

Matrix of the seal of the Chantery of S. Anne of Cleves, with figures of S. Anne and S. Mary with our Lord, and a coat of arms.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Pope's Bull, from Lichfield.—*C. Gresley, Esq.*

A Cross—I.H.C. *est amor meus:* found in the river Isis, near Oseney Abbey, Oxford.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Grotesque lion's head, from a massive silver seal found near St. Margaret's Church, Leicester, in the possession of Mr. Warner, of Leicester Abbey.—*Ibid.*

Brass matrices of two ancient seals.—*The Earl Ferrers.*

Brass matrices of two ancient ecclesiastical seals.—*Ibid.*

Brass matrix of a seal, with two persons with two roses below them, said to be commemorative of the union of the Houses of York and Lancaster.—*R. Thornewell, Esq.*

Impressions of two common seals of King Edward the Sixth's Grammar School, Birmingham.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Seal with a bird, and brass handle of something, found in Spon Street, Coventry.—*C. Gresley, Esq.*

Great seals of King Charles I., and William and Mary.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*
Matrix of the official seal of Luke Coles, Dean of Meddleham, Yorkshire, 1719-41.—*C. Gresley, Esq.*
Model of Ashby Castle.—*Miss Matthews.*
Model of the Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem.—*Rev. P. S. Cooper.*
A five guinea piece, an ancient gem, &c.—*Rev. M. Vavasour.*
A pair of carved wooden Norwegian rein-deer sledge harness, and other articles from Norway.—*Mr. G. J. R. Hewett.*
A number of very ancient deeds and documents.—*Rev. M. Webster.*
Manuscripts of the works of S. Bernard, 1454.—*Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

The Business Meeting was held at four o'clock; the Rev. John Denton in the chair.

Mr. Bellairs, Honorary Secretary, read the following

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1857.

For various reasons it has been decided to hold the Annual Meeting of the Society, this year, at an earlier date than usual hitherto. The principal motive which induced this change was the choosing of a season when the members might find it convenient to attend, and an additional cause was the wish expressed by the sub-committee appointed to make the arrangements at Ashby.

This report, therefore, refers to the Proceedings of the Society during a less period than twelve months. The first matter requiring notice is the Annual Meeting of last year. On that occasion, it will be remembered, various alterations were made in the rules relating to the time and place of the General Meeting, and the nature of the business to be there transacted. It was also resolved that the rules and objects of the society be advertised once a year in the local journals, under the direction of the Committee. At the same meeting Lord Berners was elected one of the Presidents, and the Rev. Lord Alwyne Compton an honorary member. Papers were subsequently read on various subjects. On the day following, the members of the society, with various friends, visited Melton Mowbray, where a valuable Paper by Mr. Vincent Wing, on Melton Church, was read; after which the party made an excursion to Little Dalby Hall, the seat of Edward Bouchier Hartopp, Esq., and to the encampment on Burrough Hill, inspecting the village churches on the route. It is only right here to acknowledge the truly hospitable reception given by Mr. Hartopp to the society, and to express the delight experienced by the

members on examining the Church of Little Dalby, which, by that gentleman's munificence, has been rendered beautiful.

At the ordinary meetings of the Committee held since last September, the business has mainly consisted in the exhibition of antiquities; coins, rings, rubbings of ancient brasses, ancient documents, and Roman relics; in the reading of short Papers; and in attention to the ordinary matters of finance, and so forth. At the meetings held previously, plans for the alteration and restoration of churches were submitted to the Committee, but the Committee regret that none have been laid before it since our last annual meeting in September, 1856.

The objects of the society are "to promote the study of ecclesiastical architecture and general antiquities, and the restoration and preservation of architectural remains within the county; and to furnish suggestions, as far as may be within its province, for improving the character of ecclesiastical edifices, and for preserving all ancient remains which the committee may consider of value and importance."

It would be out of place for the committee, in this report, to enter into an elaborate advocacy of these objects; but they may assuredly assume that if it be unreasonable to expect every clergyman and gentleman to be an antiquary, it is at least reasonable to suppose that they feel an interest in the architecture of those buildings in which they regularly offer up their devotions to the Most High, and that that interest should be fostered by those whose superior education and position qualify them for the comprehension of what is due to the venerable fabrics erected by our ancestors. It is equally reasonable to hope that, should the taste for hoarding antiquities be confined to the few, the desire for the knowledge which those objects impart, should be as general as that for the history of our country. All persons will sympathise in the society's desire to aid in rendering public architecture worthy of the age, and accordant with the noblest style of our race and our clime, Hence, the committee feel that the society is entitled to a greater amount of support than it now receives from the clergy, gentry, and professional classes of this county; and all the more as the subscription was originally fixed at a moderate amount in order to ensure a numerous list of members, which is, in fact, indispensable to its prosperous existence.

It will be for the members generally to consider whether the usefulness of the society may not be extended, and its operations rendered more interesting, by the adoption of measures not heretofore carried out. One of these is the publication of a separate annual volume of the Society's proceedings. It will be borne in mind that they were published in a joint volume of the associated Architectural Societies; but this arrangement was terminated at the close of last year, the committee finding the expense too great,

considering the means at their disposal. They agreed, however, to print a volume, when circumstances might render it desirable.

The principal objections raised to the proposal were the supposed difficulty of filling a volume yearly, and the cost of an annual publication; but, it will be perceived, the former in some degree neutralizes the latter; for, if there be little comparatively to print, the cost of printing cannot be great. At this time, however, there is, it may be considered, an ample supply of material for such a purpose, as will be seen by presenting the following list of papers read at the annual and other meetings in the interval which has elapsed since the conclusion of the contract with the joint societies.

"Abstract of Charters relating to Gracedieu Priory, not published by Dugdale or Nichols," by the Rev. J. M. Gresley.

"Account of Excavations for the site of Leicester Abbey," read Feb. 25, 1856, by Mr. G. H. Nevinson.

"Account of a stone coffin, discovered in Lichfield Cathedral," read by the Rev. J. M. Gresley, Feb. 25, 1856.

"Paper on Roman Remains found at Hallaton," read by Mr. James Thompson.

"On Leicester Castle," by Mr. Thompson.

"On the introduction of Moulded and Coloured Bricks into Street Architecture," by Mr. Millican.

"On Melton Church," by Mr. Vincent Wing.

"On the Tokens of Leicestershire," by Mr. T. North.

"On an Old Manor House at Donington-on-the-Heath," by the Rev. J. M. Gresley.

"On Merchants' Marks," by Mr. T. North.

Some of these Papers having been inserted in the *Midland Counties' Historical Collector*, need not be reproduced; but the remainder, it is suggested, might be collected into one volume for presentation at an early day to each subscriber. The principal difficulty lies in the expense of the illustrations, which would exceed that of the letterpress; and the Papers without the illustrations lose much of their interest. It would encourage the Committee in bringing out a volume of first-class character, were a Special Fund to be raised for the purpose of supplying wood engravings. Such a volume would be no insignificant return for the yearly subscription to the members whose engagements do not permit them to attend the meetings; and it is hoped its contents would prove a valuable record of antiquarian and topographical information.

Another measure of importance to which the Committee direct the members' attention is the foundation of a Museum and Library, for the facilitation of architectural and archæological study. Already various presents of books have been made to the Society,

and no doubt antique objects would be forwarded were it understood they were acceptable; but in the absence of a place of deposit, the formation of a Library and Museum are impossible. It is well worthy of consideration whether a room should not be taken, in order to serve as a nucleus for a collection of this character. It might also be used as a place of meeting. In connection with this idea may be mentioned the resolution of the Committee, dated August 26, 1856, "That members and others be invited to contribute sketches and photographs in Leicestershire, and that a book be purchased by the Society for the purpose of preserving such sketches and photographs." This proposal, if carried out, would provide an invaluable source of information and interest to the members and future topographer; but until the Society has a room or building of its own, where the book may be kept for reference, the plan cannot be fully developed.

Mr. Neale moved that the report be received and adopted, which was seconded by the Rev. M. Webster, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Fisher then moved, "That this Meeting is of opinion that the suggestions made in the report deserve the early consideration of the Committee."

Mr. Joyce seconded the resolution.

The Chairman in putting it said he thought it a very important resolution, for though they were archæologists, they did not want to go back to the old times, but to advance and to make old things serve the purpose of the present day. The suggestions of the report seemed to carry out this idea. They should not confine themselves necessarily to old times because they were a Society trying to raise from their ruins old churches, and to preserve other antiquities; they must go with the times, they were a thoroughly practical Society. He regretted that parties, in building churches, had not availed themselves more of the services of the Society. At the Meetings of the Northampton Society, the passages were frequently crowded with architects and clergymen waiting to see what reception their building plans had met with. The object of architectural societies was to get together a body of men who should make the science a study, and bring it down to the requirements of their villages, enabling clergymen to preserve, restore, or rebuild their churches. One had only to go through the country to see the evils arising from the want of such knowledge as it was their object to diffuse, in the fact of the number of village churches which were eyesores instead of ornaments.

The resolution was adopted.

Mr. Edward Mammatt and Mr. George Wooller were elected members of the Society.

The Committee was then appointed for the ensuing year.

Mr. Gresley proposed, and Mr. Neale seconded, a vote of thanks to the Rev. Chairman, which was briefly acknowledged, and the Meeting terminated.

The Evening Meeting was convened for half-past seven o'clock, and at that time a large number of the inhabitants of Ashby and the neighbourhood were present.

In the absence of Lord John Manners, whose presence was prevented by his Parliamentary duties, Sir Arthur Hazlerigg, Bart., was requested to take the chair.

The business of the Meeting was then proceeded with by The Rev. J. M. Gresley reading a Paper on Croxden Abbey, near Uttoxeter in Staffordshire, premising his observations by a few remarks which he was afraid might create an unfavourable impression. He felt, however, that it was almost impossible to make archæological and architectural studies matters of public interest and public excitement, owing to the nature of the subjects which were brought under consideration. But few persons really took much interest in old times; they were inclined to look rather to the future than the past, and the subject of his Paper he doubted not would appear to many dull and heavy rather than otherwise: and, if so, he should be glad to cut it short if an intimation were given to that effect. He then proceeded to attribute the origin of the religious establishments of the twelfth century to the remorse of the Norman nobles for the cruelty of which their ancestors had been guilty to the serfs and vilains over whom they ruled. It was impossible to rightly appreciate foundations of this kind without divesting ourselves of many of the prejudices in which we had been brought up. The Abbey of Croxden, was founded by Bertram de Verdon, in the year 1176, as a monastery of Cistercian monks. These monks were accused at the Reformation of possessing the best lands in the kingdom, but the goodness of their lands was owing to their own exertions. We had an illustration of the excellent cultivation of land by monks in Charnwood at the present time. Having quoted the charter by which Bertram de Verdon gave lands to the abbey, the lecturer remarked that he thought there was truth in calling those times "the ages of faith," differing so widely as they did from the present, when it was thought a great thing for a landowner to give half an acre to the church-building commissioners. The deed by which the monastery was founded measured only 16 inches by 10, so concise were its provisions. It had been stated that the abbot of Croxden was physician to King John, and that the king's heart was buried there, but it was shown, by reference to Matthew Paris, that, that was Croxton in

Leicestershire, and not Croxden in Staffordshire. Remarking that the principal authority from which he derived his information was the chartulary of the abbey, Mr. Gresley proceeded to mention various incidents of interest in its history. One of the first acts of the first abbot was to transcribe the greater part of the Holy Scriptures for the use of the monks. Another abbot purchased for their use what we may call a Family Bible, in nine volumes, with notes by the Archdeacon of Leicester, the price of which was equal to £533. 6s. 8d. of present money. This was a proof that the monks valued the Bible quite as much as we do, and he had no doubt they were quite as well acquainted with its contents. In 1291 there was an account of a plantation belonging to the monastery being converted into charcoal, the reason of which was that charcoal was employed for fuel. In 1313 a new common seal of the monastery was made, and entrusted to four of the monks to keep. Previously to this time the seals of Cistercian abbeys had on them only the name of the abbot. In 1316 the house of Verdon became extinct, and Sir Thomas de Furnival, of Alton, claimed the right to put down the convent because there were not fifty monks, the number being only thirty. Numerous instances of his exactions were chronicled, as well as the reconciliation which was ultimately effected. In 1320 it was recorded that the abbot of Croxden baptized the child of Johanna de Furnival, lady of Alton, and that the abbot of Rocester lifted the child out of the font, as being his godfather. This was quite opposed to our modern practice. He now came to the time of the Reformation. It was his conviction, as well as that of Sir W. Dugdale, Spelman, and other distinguished authorities, that the object of Henry VIII. in his destruction of religious houses was his own aggrandisement, and not the reformation of religion: his agents were men of the same views, the reports of the abominations said to exist in the religious houses were grossly exaggerated, and the lecturer regarded their forcible dissolution as one of the greatest acts of impiety ever committed. The Abbey of Croxden was one of the few religious institutions which were permitted for a short period to survive the general destruction. In 1538, however, the deed of its surrender was signed by the abbot, and immediately afterwards the king's agents destroyed most of it. In drawing his remarks to a conclusion the lecturer observed that it was generally supposed at that time that evil would befal the possessors of monastic property. We might laugh at the opinion now, but that did not prove it to be false. We live in what were called "enlightened" times, that is, times of sight and not of faith; and we have become so enlightened that perhaps we cannot distinguish superstition from faith.

Several unpublished prints illustrating the lecture were then handed round for the inspection of the audience.

Mr. North contributed the following Paper which was read in his absence by the Honorary Secretary.

THE PRINCIPLES AND AIMS OF ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETIES.

This being the first General Meeting of the Leicestershire Architectural Society held in Ashby, it may not be amiss if its principles and the objects for which it was formed are here briefly explained.

So many have now at least some knowledge of Architecture

"And ta'en the—antiquarian trade,"

that any apology for our Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society may appear superfluous; but, on the other hand, so little results from their knowledge, so small a profit apparently arises from their "trade," that it is evident more interest wants exciting, and the desirability of heartily co-operating with this and similar societies bringing once more prominently in view.

The aims of these societies are the discovery and preservation of objects of antiquity, accompanied with enquiries into their origin and their use, and the bringing before the public mind the desirability of improving our architecture, ecclesiastical, civic, and domestic.

When we consider that Time not only wears away all man's handy works, but, to use the words of Verstegan,

"And as he all beginnings seeks to end,
So all his endings to oblivion tend,"

it is clearly necessary, if we wish to preserve the memorials of the past, that we look well to them, and bring all our care and our knowledge to war, as far as may be, with the great leveller of all human works, and so be enabled to hand them down uninjured to succeeding generations, for their use, their pleasure, and their instruction.

These remarks refer especially to buildings upon which (without precaution) time and our variable atmosphere make quick and perceptible impressions. How many an ancient church would now be standing had a little attention been bestowed upon the drainage round its foundations, if an occasional inspection of its gutters had taken place? However much we may admire the neat modern erections now upon their sites, we cannot but miss the fantastic corbels and elaborate bosses of the interior, the grotesque gurgoyles and time-worn apex crosses of the exterior, and the time-stained tower in the centre. The demolition of an old church is destroying a great link between the past and the present. The temple which our forefathers built, and in which they

worshipped, must always, as we look upon the very stones they looked upon, kneel upon the very floor pressed by their bended knees, carry us back many ages and awaken within us many a feeling of sympathy with those who in less favoured times—amid the din of war or the rage of civil strife—did not forget their duty to religion, nor attempt to fulfil it in a flimsy or parsimonious manner.

In addition to ecclesiastical edifices, the ancient castle, the baronial hall, the crumbling gateway, and the more humble dwelling house of mediæval times, receive their share of attention.

The preservation or judicious restoration of these, then, by showing their value, and pointing out the proper course to be pursued, is one great object of archæological science.

Again, in these days of railways and other public undertakings and improvements, involving much work upon soil which has lain undisturbed for many generations, numberless relics of the past are being constantly brought to light—coins from the bronze of the early Roman emperors to the humble tradesman's token of the seventeenth century,—fibulæ, hair-pins, and other personal ornaments, including rings of all dates, from the early signet to the poesy ring of the last century—vessels of all shapes and for all purposes, of Samian ware, of Roman manufacture, and of the rough make of a later period, are being constantly turned up, not to mention seals, implements of various kinds, and other relics too numerous to name; all these are enquired after, preserved, and their former use, if not already known, sought into and explained by antiquaries, by members of archæological societies. The light thrown by these researches upon history; the distinct picture we obtain of mediæval customs and every-day life, by giving attention to these minute but important items, demonstrating as they do the tastes and the habits of our forefathers, can hardly be overrated. The time is now past when an antiquary is thought to be a "dry-as-dust," a kind of resuscitated mummy.—Which tells the dryest tale, the man who informs you in a few short lines the date of the accession of Richard II., the causes of the discontent of the people, and his consequent deposition; or the man who, in addition to this, can, like the new Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, show you the man in the very costume of the period, the public companies with their ancient banners, cognizances, and emblems of office, and can also depict for you the very aspect of the streets of London? And how is this information to be obtained? By a study of such remains of antiquity as we have already mentioned; and be it remembered that what Charles Kean exhibits on the stage, others exhibit to the mind's eye in another and a more accessible way. Much also might be said upon the great light thrown upon our national and local history by the preservation, the decyphering, and the publication of ancient manuscript docu-

ments. These always receive the attention of the antiquary, and no one who has witnessed the wilful destruction of Church Registers, and public documents of every description, can fail to perceive that he is doing a great public service in attempting to preserve such as remain, or by using all proper means to restore such as have found their way into private hands, to their original, or other proper repositories.

The second great object of this and similar societies, we stated to be, the bringing before the public mind the desirability of improving our architecture, ecclesiastical, civic, and domestic.

Much is doing and has been done during the past twenty years in the right direction. How many new churches and chapels have been raised, which reflect credit both upon the architects and their employers! But civic and domestic architecture have not made equal progress towards improvement. Some of our recent public buildings are ugly in the extreme. No style of architecture owning them for its offspring—while in our dwelling-houses the same elevation and the same style of ornament are repeated, with little or no variation, through the length of the longest streets of our largest towns.

We forget that churches, or even public buildings, will not in themselves, however beautiful, make a handsome city or town; for the dwelling houses will also throw in their mass of frontage, either to assist in beautifying, or to add to the dull monotony of our streets.

The subject of civic and domestic architecture is one upon which many and opposite opinions are held; some advocating the Gothic style, some the Classical, and some thinking a new style will shortly be introduced to eclipse both. This, then, is a subject which can be discussed with profit in a society like this, where each member can bring forward his views, prove their practicability, and shew the inherent beauties of the style of architecture he advocates, and its capabilities as to modern ideas of comfort and refinement. We may, by means of interchanging our ideas in this manner, by using this society as a medium of intercommunication, arrive at a juster estimate of the different styles of architecture, and have a more certain and definite notion as to which is the most fitting, not only for English churches, but for public buildings and dwelling houses.

Such, then, being the principal objects of this society, there can hardly be two opinions as to its utility. That it is worthy of encouragement and support, is evidenced by the good results arising from the labours of similar societies of longer standing in other counties, in the preservation or restoration of many time-honoured and beautiful buildings, and in directing attention to very many subjects of interest and instruction, which a few years ago

would have been misunderstood, or thrown aside as useless and of no value.

The proper way to make this society really useful, is, for all who take the least interest in any of its objects, to become active working members. Whilst the range of archæology is so wide as almost to preclude the possibility of one man being thoroughly conversant with all its divisions, its branches are so diverse, its fields of study so full of variety, that all, with tastes however opposite, find something to which they can turn with pleasure, some study which they can follow out with profit to themselves, and by giving publicity to the results of their labours at the usual meetings of the society, can add their mite to the treasure of knowledge, which it is the ambition of these societies to accumulate and to dispense for the general good. Thus the numismatist gives you information respecting every coin the world has minted; another inquirer will devote himself with equal ardour to the study and explanation of ancient arms, armour, and costume, clerical and lay, and for this purpose will take drawings of recumbent figures upon tombs, rub monumental brasses, copy ancient illuminations; a third will enlighten you as to the origin and the devices upon ancient pottery, upon the encaustic tiles now perhaps in your church or your museum; whilst others will confine themselves more especially to architecture. Thus each receives fifty-fold for his individual contribution, and knowledge that would, under ordinary circumstances, have lain dormant in the mind of one man, is brought to light and communicated to others for their instruction and their amusement.

There are, I am sure, many—very many gentlemen in this neighbourhood—in this room—who would be very valuable members of our society. Let me, therefore, invite such of you as have not yet done so, to join us in our attempt to work out its intentions, in our endeavours to throw light upon the past, to brighten the present, and, we may venture to hope, to leave at least a "sign" behind us that our labours have not been altogether in vain with reference to the future.

Some remarks from the Rev. J. M. Gresley upon the present state of this society, and votes of thanks to the writers of the Papers read and to the contributors to the very excellent Museum closed the Meeting.

THE EXCURSION.

THE Excursion was made on the following day, 29th July.

A little before nine o'clock, the party, including several ladies, started from the Royal Hotel, and proceeded through a striking and picturesque country to Repton, the first place to be visited. The church there has a very fine oak roof, and consists of a nave and chancel, with north and south aisles, divided from the nave by six arcades. The clerestory is perpendicular, and the chancel very slightly developed. Beneath is a crypt, apparently Norman of an early date, and in it a monument of a warrior, removed from the church, and believed to be of the fifteenth century. In an adjoining garden, near the school, have been discovered at a considerable distance from each other the massive bases of two pillars, which evidently formed part of the ancient monastic building. A pavement of encaustic tiles was found a few years ago, about six feet below the surface, in this garden, near a corner of wall, with the head of a pointed window visible above the ground. It is said that at the dissolution, the person to whom the monastery was granted was so eager to take possession and so fearful of being deprived of what he had obtained, that he got together all the workmen in the neighbourhood and demolished the buildings in a day. Several other remains of the monastery were visited, especially a fine specimen of ancient brickwork fronting the old Trent, and the refectory, now used for the purposes of the school.

From Repton the party proceeded to Foremark, and leaving the Hall to the right, descended a valley between banks crowned with trees, and visited the ancient caves known as Anchor Church. These evidently artificial apartments, excavated in the soft sandy rock, are supposed to have been inhabited at a very early period.

The next stage in the journey was Melbourne, where the Church, with its noble Norman arches, was the first object visited, and upon which the REV. J. DEANS, read the following Paper:—

THE chief place in the kingdom of Mercia was *Repton*, anciently called *Hrespan dun* or Screaming *Hill*. Into that town, then the seat of the kings of Mercia, Christianity was introduced in the year 653, upon the occasion of the marriage of *Peada* with the daughter of Oswy, king of Northumberland. Having himself, as a condition of his marriage, adopted the Christian faith, he brought with him four priests, one of whom, *Diuma*, was shortly afterwards consecrated bishop, and doubtless fixed upon some spot in the neighbourhood as a kind of chief establishment for education.

Peada lived but a few years—not more than five—and after his death, by treachery, Wulfhere, his uncle, succeeded to the throne,

being supported by the pagan population, through whose means he had been concealed from the search of Oswy, when all the rest of Peada's family were destroyed, with the exception of Peada only. This change necessarily affected Christianity, and would prove a check and discouragement to its teachers. It may have been upon this occasion that Breedon Hill became first occupied by them as a stronghold, and an educational establishment. I used to consider the name as derived from Bræd dun—broad hill, —but I find it called by Bede *Brindun*, which may mean *Fragment Hill*, an expression very applicable to it in its present state, and probably not less so at that remote period. If, however, Breedon was then thus occupied—as it certainly was but a short time later, for in 731 there was a monastery there, from which a priest was elected to the archiepiscopal see of Canterbury, *Tatwine*, who is represented as a man renowned for religion and wisdom, and notably learned in sacred writ—if then, Breedon was thus occupied, we must expect that there would be a path between Repton and Breedon, and this would necessarily pass through Melbourne.

Now when Ethelred, son of Peada, in 675 had succeeded his uncle Wulfhere, Christianity was again cherished, and this path would probably be much used, as lying between the seat of power and the seat of learning. Osthird the queen appears to have been a devout Christian, and it may have been in one of her visits to Breedon that she was waylaid and murdered by her own people, some say with the connivance of Ethelred, her husband.

Upon this slight foundation we try to lay the first stone of the history of Melbourne Church. Osthird was waylaid and murdered; she was a Christian, and there was a Christian establishment at Breedon, to reach which she must have passed through the spot on which Melbourne is built. Wherever any person of note met a violent death, it was not unusual to erect a building in which continual prayers should be offered up, both for the eternal health of the person slain, and also of him who had caused it to be done. If, then, her death occurred here, it is quite allowable to suppose that some such building was erected by Ethelred, and the supposition that this was the case is strengthened by the name of the place, Melbourne (being scarcely altered from Maelburn, the brook of the Cross), and by the tradition that this church was built by Ethelred as an atonement for the murder of his queen.

This present building, however, was certainly not erected by Ethelred. Without noticing the fact that most of the buildings of that period were formed of wood—the Saxon term for building is *getimbrian*—yet as the Danes wintered at Repton in 874, and overrun the whole country, we cannot suppose that a building of any pretension would have been left uninjured by them so near to the place they occupied.

But there are other reasons for supposing that the present

building is considerably later than the period of this first erection of a christian building. I do not venture to give any opinion founded upon the character of the architecture, of which others are better able to judge than I am, but I would call your attention to the capital of one of the pillars, on which we find two crosses, with a pellat in each angle. The symbol of the cross was adopted by those Saxon kings who had become Christians, as a mark of their profession of the faith. This would at first be a simple cross, and afterwards distinguishing marks would be adopted, which we find to have been one, two, or three pellats in the angle. By a reference to the Saxon coinage we find those with one pellat, exactly identical with the crosses on this capital of this pillar, were not used until the time of the deputy kings of Mercia; so that there is some reason for supposing that the present building was erected after the ninth century, and probably before the Conquest.

The changes which have been made in the course of successive centuries will perhaps be better understood by an inspection of the church. I therefore beg to close these remarks, and request you to view the different parts of the building.

While passing round the church the Rev. J. Deans stated that there was on foot a project for restoring it, and raising for that purpose not less than £1200. £300. were now promised within the parish, and it was hoped, with the help of Lord Palmerston and family, the required amount might be got together. He also stated that when the church was last whitewashed, in 1842, he had discovered upon one of the pillars a painting, which seemed to him to have some reference to the event in connection with which a church was originally built there, consisting of a man holding a female figure with one hand and a raised club with the other, accompanied by other figures apparently in hiding. He believed that originally there were no windows in the outer walls of the aisles, but that the light was derived solely from the clerestory. The nave was divided from the aisles by remarkably lofty Norman arches, and the clerestory opened into the church through groups of three arches, the centre one of each group being higher than the other two. At the chancel end were evident proofs of there having once been three circular apses. At the west end also were three fine arches in the porticus, which it is proposed to throw open into the church, if the restoration should be effected. This portion of the building was roofed with flat pieces of sandstone grouted together, and it was supposed that the church itself had originally a roof of the same character. One of the monuments was a recumbent figure in armour, in memory of an ancestor of the late Lord Hardinge.

From the church the party next proceeded to the grounds and gardens of the hall, which they were kindly permitted to inspect

by G. Briscoe, Esq. After about half-an-hour spent in this pleasant ramble, the party were invited to partake of a plentiful and substantial luncheon, which was as thoroughly enjoyed as the more intellectual proceedings of the day. At the close, the health of Mr. and Mrs. Briscoe and family was proposed by Mr. Cave, of Repton, and suitably responded to by Mr. Briscoe, who expressed his gratification at receiving and entertaining the party.

Breedon-on-the-Hill was the next stage in the journey. Here first the remains of the ancient encampment attracted attention, and next the church. The building, then a monastic establishment, was purchased, it was stated, from the king at the dissolution for £100. by an ancestor of the Shirleys, and by him given to the parish, reserving to himself and descendants the north side. In this aisle are some fine monuments of several periods to members of the family, and the very remarkable Shirley pew, having two compartments made of oak, and so shut in at the top and sides that the occupants would not find it easy to unite in worship with the congregation in the body of the church. This pew is believed to be unique, at least in this county.

The party next proceeded to Staunton Harold, the residence of Earl Ferrers, who received them most courteously, and himself conducted them to the various points of interest in the mansion. The library with its valuable books, paintings, engravings, and curiosities, detained the visitors a considerable time. Next they entered the drawing-room to see the large family picture by Vanderwert, which was much admired. They were also shown the room formerly the chapel, when the possessor of the estate was a Roman Catholic, and the adjoining apartment, round which are portraits of several saints. In the ball-room, which has a fine ceiling, painted by an Italian artist, was the pedigree and quarterings of the family, in two divisions, one extending from the Saxon chiefs to the time of Queen Elizabeth, and the other subsequent to that period. In another room entered for the purpose of seeing the portrait of the founder of the church, Sir Robert Shirley, an agreeable surprise had been prepared for the party in the shape of an elegant dessert, which we need scarcely say was much enjoyed. The church was next visited, and struck everyone by the perfect and beautiful order in which it was kept. The fine communion plate, the gift of the founder, was exhibited and described: and the Rev. G. Gilbert in brief but appropriate language, expressed his heartfelt wishes for the long life and welfare of Earl Ferrers, as the descendant of so good a man. The attention of the visitors was especially directed to the following inscription, in a white marble slab over the west door:—"In the year 1653, when all things sacred throughout the nation were either demolished or profaned, Sir Robert Shirley, Baronet, founded this church, whose singular praise it was to have done the

best things in the worst of times, and to have hoped them in the most calamitous. 'The righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance.'"

Time had flown so rapidly in the pleasant inspection of Staunton Harold, that those of the party who had to return to Leicester, had to deprive themselves of the promised visit to Coleorton Hall, the last station on the programme, in order to be at Ashby in time for the train.

Throughout the day the Rev. J. M. Gresley acted as conductor, and discharged his task with great ability and success. Both he and the other members of the local committee deserve the greatest credit for the exertions they made to prepare for and carry on the proceedings with such complete success.

August 31*st*, 1857.

The Rev. G. E. Gillett in the chair.

The Rev. R. Burnaby exhibited two rings, one of them, discovered a few years ago in Leicester, of copper gilt; embossed upon it was a skeleton, and on the inner surface was engraven—*Die to Live.* The date of it was conjectured to be the latter half of the seventeenth century.

Mr. Thomas Nevinson produced a rubbing of the monumental brass of Joice, relict of Sir John Tiptoft, in Enfield Church, Middlesex. The effigy in this elaborate brass is represented as habited in a sideless cote-hardi, worn over a kirtle, and a mantle, the mantle being embroidered with the arms of Powis impaling Holland. The inscription on the border-fillets is partly covered, but it is given in full by *Gough*, with the exception of a few words at the commencement. This lady was daughter to Edward Charlton, Lord Powis, who married Eleanor, widow of Roger Mortimer, Earl of Marche, and daughter to Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent. She died September 2nd, 1446. A full and learned description of this brass, by the Rev. C. Boutell, will be found in the first volume of the *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society.*

Mr. Vincent Wing produced a design for a west window in the church at Kirby Bellars, to the memory of the Rev. Edward Manners. It is to be filled with stained glass, by Wailes, representing the call, ordination, charge, and martyrdom of S. Peter.

Mr. Wing read the following Paper on

THE JUDICIOUS RESTORATION OF VILLAGE CHURCHES.

In the present day mischief is frequently done by injudicious restoration of churches, and it would seem desirable to bring such cases, as they occur, under the notice of this and similar societies, that we may be stimulated to *preventive service.* Dr. Kaye, the late Bishop of Lincoln, in a charge to the clergy, remarked that our old ecclesiastical buildings supply a link not unimportant in the chain of occular corroborations of the truth of Christianity. Now, with what concern must a Christian man, feeling the force of this observation, regard the modernizing of our churches by pretended restorations until they lose the proofs (to say nothing of the charm) of their antiquity? Two village churches have lately come under the notice of the writer of this Paper, the altered state of which suggests the necessity of efforts being made to render our society more efficient in interposing to secure these precious relics of bye-gone days against destruction and deterioration. One, indeed, has been so changed and dressed over, that in a century the evidence of its antiquity will be lost. As to the other, the incumbent, a person of taste and considerable intelligence, undertook to restore it, but, he not possessing an acquaintance with church architecture, and having employed a builder who did not understand it, the result is bad. A tolerable effect has been produced in the interior, but the stone work is in part incorrect, and a monstrous mistake has been committed—that of *flaying the outside.* By this last operation the plane of the wall recedes from the strings and mouldings, and the building is made more perishable from the loss of its incrustation. This case, however, is worse in its consequences than in itself. A neighbouring clergyman, who had occasion to restore his church, has adopted the worst errors of this example, and the effect has been the metamorphosis which we have mentioned,—the particulars of the process we will relate. As in the other instance, the uninstructed, natural taste of the incumbent, and the manual powers of an ignorant builder, are the only resources. A church almost as interesting as any small one, and a steeple as beautiful as any in Leicestershire, are operated upon. With much labour they effect the excoriation of spire and all. A moulding distinctive for date, being an approach to the cavetto, in a large window in the tower, offends the eye, so it is innovated upon by a rectangular cut, which takes the whole sweep. In the chancel a nondescript large priest's door is substituted for the old one. A superior oak roof, with richly carved bosses, instead of being restored is

removed, and a plain deal one takes its place. A clumsy fellow makes short work of the glazing by taking off the inside of the cusps of the windows. A coping appears to have been devised as an improvement upon the flat window-sill, and serves no other purpose than to knock against or to be an eye-sore. A high tomb of local interest is banished; a piscina and a pictorial brass share the same fate. The font has not had its base restored, but the upper part has been erected on a plain slab: it was first fixed on alabaster, but afterwards that was exchanged for freestone. This church was well worth visiting; it has a chancel, nave, and one aisle. The arcade between the two latter is very good, of an early date, about 1200, with unique sculptured capitals, beautiful for the period. The scraping of the pillars, the renewing of the clerestory windows, and the plain benches are the most creditable of the late performances. The plastering of the walls we must excuse, it is presumed, on the plea of necessary economy. But our chief quarrel with the renovators remains to be told. We will not for a moment advocate rood-screens in new churches; but when they exist in old ones, and are most essential, as in this one-aisle small church, to give effect, they ought to remain. Here was one so exquisitely beautiful, that a person of cultivated taste, upon inspecting it, would feel himself at a loss to find its equal. It is true that many pieces had been torn away, but enough was left to make a restoration easy. And what has been its fate? It has been destroyed, and a few fragments have been used to patch up a modern pulpit.

Surely, if refined taste is to have any voice in England, and if archæological societies are to be made useful, such usage of such a church ought to come under free animadversion and severe criticism. These statements have been given to induce the members of the society to devise an effectual scheme for the securing of competent advice for any church restoration that may be promoted in the district. Some practical agency should be constituted, and the clergy and churchwardens in the county invited to take advantage of it when occasion may arise.

A discussion of some length followed the reading of Mr. Wing's remarks, respecting the deplorable destruction committed of late years under the term of "Church Restoration," whereby so much that was valuable to the architect, the artist, the antiquary, and the genealogist, has been utterly lost to future generations; when it was resolved:—

"That whenever restorations of churches of this county are likely to be undertaken, it is desirable that communications should be made by members of this society to the secretaries, who are requested to communicate with the clergy of such parishes, and

assure them that the society will be glad to give them any advice and assistance in their power."

It was further resolved: "That the thanks of this society be tendered to the Right Honorable the Earl Ferrers, the Rev. Dr. Pears, and G. Briscoe, Esq., for their courteous and hospitable reception of the society on their annual excursion on the 29th of July last."

The following gentlemen were elected members of the society: the Rev. W. A. C. B. Cave, Rector of Stretton-en-le-Field, and Messrs. Brigges, of King's Newton, and W. P. Cox of Leicester.

October 27th, 1857.

THE REV. ROBERT BURNABY in the chair.

MR. THO. WARD exhibited a rubbing of the small brass effigy, with inscription, of Robert Willardsey, Vicar of Hillingdon, near Uxbridge, who died 13th March, 1424.

MR. V. WING exhibited two photographs of the west end of the church at Kirby Bellars, by Mr. Adcock, showing the new window, containing the memorial to the Rev. E. Manners, the design for which was produced at the last Meeting.

MR. THOMPSON laid before the Meeting a number of Anglo-Saxon antiquities from Saxby in this county, which he explained in the following Paper:

I HAVE pleasure in laying before the society to-day several relics of Anglo-Saxon antiquity. They consist of fragments of pottery, ornaments, and weapons, all illustrative of the condition and habits of our ancestors, and confirmatory of our previous knowledge on these subjects. The pottery consists of three jars, nearly complete, and of a portion of a fourth. They are of the common shape and rudely ornamented, exemplifying the homely taste of the Teutons, as we find it evinced by the Franks in Normandy, or by the German tribes of the Rhine and Switzerland. Here is no Roman elaborateness or sombre Etruscan fancy, but simply the point, the zigzag, and line of the Saxon. In outline only is there any pretension to elegance, and that is marred by the bosses around the lateral swell of the bulb. Some mystery yet hangs over the purpose of these vessels. Sometimes bones are found in them, the remains of the body after burning. At other times no such remains are discovered. From this it may be inferred they were frequently used for domestic purposes. No reason can be adduced why they should not be so ordinarily, but in some cases be applied for burial purposes. In other examples, the small size of the jars

indicates they were drinking cups, or something of that kind—they are too small for funeral urns. Of the ornaments, first come the fibulæ. The larger of the two produced is more complete than any I have yet seen; it is in most respects of the same description as those are which Mr. Wright (in "*The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon*") says are peculiar to the Angles, who formerly inhabited Mercia, East Anglia, and Northumbria; yet it differs from them in some particulars. A grotesque head is discoverable on the lower part of the shaft. The other fibula is very nearly like one found at Ingarsby, and is broken off in the same way below the centre; possibly for the same reason—that the lower part, being below the pin-point at the back, seemed to its former owner superfluous and in the way, and therefore the practical Saxon roughly made it shorter. Next to the fibulæ we have the beads, of different colours and stripes. Some are of glass, others of earthenware, inlaid with a coloured material in a striated pattern. It seems these ornaments were worn by men as well as women. Here are also part of the articles of the chatelaine—the pin and the tweezers, both of bronze. L'Abbé Cochet has the following graphic passage about the probable use of the latter by the Franks of ancient Normandy: "Puis, il me semble, que l'usage de cet instrument fait supposer un homme agé nourrissant une forte barbe, car on croit communément que cette pince servait chaque jour a arracher les poils épais et touffus qui poussaient sous les narines des Barbares."

Of the weapons there is the spear head and knife, and the point, apparently, of a dart. Respecting the circumstances attendant on the discovery of these relics I am not well informed. All I learn is that they were found in the parish of Saxby, near to Stapleford Park, some years ago. They lay about three feet below the surface, and a low mound had at sometime covered them. Seeing that the Angles settled in Mercia about the year 585, and were professedly christianized about the year 653, after which burial around churches would begin—seeing, in short, that these remains are those of a Pagan Saxon, it is probable that the interment took place twelve hundred years ago. I have no doubt many similar discoveries have yet to be made in the neighbourhood of our villages; as in many cases, they were originally settled by members of Anglian families in the ante-Christian era.

Mr. T. Nevinson produced rubbings of three interesting brasses. The brass of Richard Tooner (as it is supposed), Rector of Broadwater, Sussex, A.D. 1432-45, is in the form of a cross fleury: the original foot-legend has been supplanted by one to the memory of John Corby, Rector, A.D. 1415. That of Nicholas Aumberdene, fishmonger, of London, has also a cross, standing upon a fish, his effigy, within the quarterfoil in the centre, his costume being of the time of Edward III. The third brass was

that of a priest and of a frankelein, in Shottesbrooke Church, Buckinghamshire. Their effigies are beneath canopies. The priest is habited in the amice, alb, stole, maniple, and chasuble. On his embroidered vestments is the remarkable fylfot-cross, alternating with a flower of four leaves. The frankelein, probably his brother, is attired in tunic, mantle, and hood; from his girdle hangs an anlace, a short weapon between a sword and a dagger. The shoes are pointed, and fastened over the instep. The date of this brass is about 1370.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley exhibited a small metal pestle and mortar, formerly in the possession of Stukely, the antiquary, and now of the Rev. M. Vavasour. It is ornamented with masks and arabesques, and has the inscription, LAVS . DEO . SEMPER . AO. 1632. It was probably used for pounding incense. Three mortars of a similar character were sent by the Edinburgh Society of Antiquaries to the Exhibition at Manchester. One of them had the date 1630, and SOLI DEO GLORIA: another with 1601, was said to be Dutch.

Mr. Gresley also produced a coloured tracing of a large drawing of the monastic building of Christ Church, Canterbury, contained in a magnificent MS. Psalter in the library of Trinity College, Cambridge. The book is the work of Eadwin, a monk, and was written about the time of King Stephen, 1135-54. The drawing is a kind of bird's-eye view, showing the Conventual Church (or Cathedral), the cloistered courts, chapter house, refectory, kitchen, dormitory, guesten-hall, infirmary, necessarium, domestic offices, orchard, vineyard, &c. The drawing, however, seems to have been made for the purpose of showing the arrangements for the distribution of water throughout the monastic buildings, the water-courses, from a reservoir about a mile distant, being indicated by broad red, brown, and yellow lines. Professor Willis, in the *Archæological Journal* for 1847, gave an account of an investigation he made of the present buildings in the Close of the Cathedral of Canterbury, when he found that wherever Eadwin indicates a building in the drawing, Norman remains of a building are still to be found, or a good reason may be assigned for a later building supplying its place.

The Secretary was instructed to forward to the Incumbent of Oadby a copy of the resolution passed at the last Meeting, respecting the restoration of churches in Leicestershire.

Mr. J. S. Clarke, of Brentingby Hall, was elected a member of the Society.

December 28th, 1857.

THE REV. G. E. GILLETT in the chair.

MR. G. C. BELLAIRS exhibited several photographs of different views of Fountains Abbey, Yorkshire.

MR. T. NORTH exhibited a good photograph of the west front of Salisbury Cathedral.

MR. T. NEVINSON exhibited a rubbing of the brass of Sir Robert Septvans, from Chartham Church, Kent; date, 1306. The figure is cross-legged, and habited in chain mail, over which is a surcoat, ornamented with wheat fans. The shield on his left arm has the same device. The feet rest on a lion, and the head is uncovered. Also a rubbing from the brass of Archbishop Harsnett, from Chigwell Church, Essex; date, 1631. The Archbishop is represented in a richly decorated cope and mitre, with a pastoral staff in his left hand and a book in his right. The following inscription is round the verge of the slab: "*Hic jacet Samuel Harsnett, quondam Vicarius hujus Ecclesiæ primo indignus Episcopus, Cicestriensis deindignior Episcop. Norwicensis, deinum indignissim. Archiepiscop. Eboracen Qui obiit* xxv. *die Maii, Anno Dne.* 1631." At the corners of the slab are the four Evangelists writing, with their respective symbols. At the feet of the figure is the following inscription: "*Quod ipsissimum Epitaphium ex abundanti humilitate sibi poni testamento curavit Reverendissimus prœsul.*" There are four shields on the slab, one bearing his own arms, and the rest the arms of the three sees impaled with his own.

Some conversation occurred condemnatory of the intended church clock at Oadby, which is to have three faces. One half of each face is to be in the tower and the other half in the spire, and for this purpose the stonework will have to be cut away to the extent of four feet in circumference, greatly endangering the safety of the fabric, and altogether spoiling the appearance of the elegant broach tower of one of our best specimens of village churches.

Mr. C. A. Macaulay was elected a member of the society.

Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society.

February 22nd, 1858.

The Rev. Robert Burnaby, M.A., in the chair.

The subject of the Oadby church clock was again brought before the meeting, and some correspondence in reference to it read, when, instead of the proposed expensive and by no means tasteful plan of cutting a large hole in the spire, and then building out a place for the clock, the society recommended that if the clock had three faces placed in the lower part of the spire, the three dials be made of open or skeleton work of cast or wrought iron, of a light design, taking care that the letters and hands, which should be gilded, be as visible as possible, and the rest of the frame comparatively invisible. The dials would project from or stand out from the spire, so that the faces would be perfectly vertical. This plan would not interfere with the fabric, and not much injure the appearance of the church; it would render all stonework and building unnecessary, be a great saving in expense, and the clock would be conspicuous from a distance.

Mr. V. Wing exhibited some interesting views of churches, and also a very accurate architectural drawing by himself of the beautiful church of Melton Mowbray restored, to illustrate the following

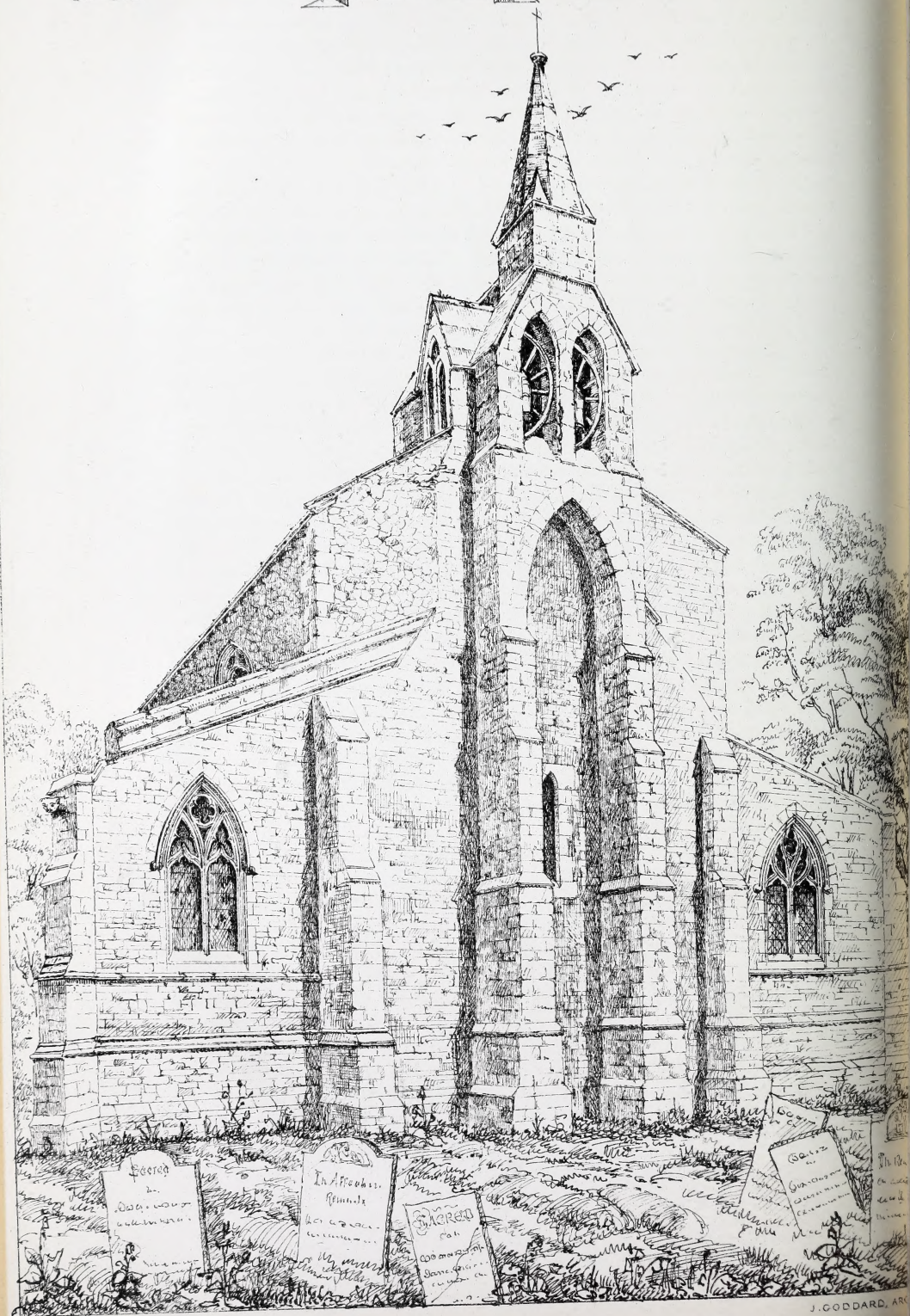
CRITICISMS ON SOME ANCIENT EXAMPLES OF GOTHIC WORK.

I submit for your inspection a few views of churches, which I think will be found interesting. Some of them show great beauty of design, and others furnish valuable hints to the ecclesiastical architect. The first to be produced is that of Dunchurch, in Warwickshire, the tower of which is worth observation. The next is the beautiful Perpendicular church at Devizes, in Wiltshire. In each of these much judgment appears in overcoming the diffi-

culty which occurs with the staircase of the steeple. A common arrangement is that of an octagonal structure attached to one angle, rearing its head above the rest in the form of a turret. In castellated buildings nothing looks better than the bartizan of a tower; but in a church this aspiring turret is out of character, and has somewhat of the appearance of an ill-placed chimney. The designers of these two edifices feeling the objection have overcome it, in one instance by carrying each corner merlon of the battlement to the same height as those of the staircase, and in the other by keeping down the whole nearly at a level, and making them more subordinate by erecting, as a further finish, a pinnacle at each corner, thus leaving the staircase with a buttressed appearance, by which means it seems to serve as backbone, and yields that first element of true architectural design, namely, constructive firmness. In many cases the stairs are built within the angle, and the consequence is the distortion of the features of the tower, on one side if not more.

The next is a lithograph of the porch of Skelton Church, in Yorkshire. This gives a valuable hint which I am not aware that any one of the present day has availed himself of. Since the time of Pugin a preference has obtained in some quarters for the more mixed continental styles (possibly an ebbing has set in towards debasement by invention and novelty) with a disposition to repudiate research amongst ancient examples of the purer Gothic of this country; and, if so, it will not be out of season to call attention to some of these masterly strokes of our own great authors. We need scarcely be reminded that they were giants in their days. Witness the Norman front of the grand nave of Peterborough Minster, screened and eclipsed by that unrivalled west front of the thirteenth century; or at the same period, with a taste not inferior, the Norman work of Lincoln, preserved and boldly interwoven; the old cloth and a new garment, in the union of the rude as well as more elaborate Norman with the extension of the façade in elegant Early English: and in the fifteenth century the Perpendicular towers erected upon their Norman bases, and carried up in all their consummate beauty and sublimity; the result being a combining of the awful grandeur of the arches and deep shade of Peterborough with a perfect outline and an astonishing expanse of decoration. "Difficulties" was then but another word for "opportunities." The falling of the central tower of Ely Cathedral only evoked a reconstruction of the centre, and led to such a display of taste as no lover of the art would rest content without visiting. At Skelton, within the limits of a porch doorway, the designer has evidently aimed at magnificence, and has as evidently succeeded. In the jambs he has obtained what may be called an avenue of pillars, nine in number on either side, bold and uncramped, which throw out their ramifications of

EAST END OF BURTON LAZARS CHURCH.



J. GODDARD, ARC

PRESS IPSWICH.

mouldings above, in more than four orders, with admirable effect. The chief ingenuity of the scheme to which I request attention consists in a contrivance to show large and handsome capitals and bases, notwithstanding the contiguity of the shafts. This is effected by corbelling back some of the bases, whereby the nine merge into six, whilst the nine capitals plunge into and lose themselves in their well contrived foliage, and their abaci or tops without the appearance of mutilation come out four in number.

It is possible that the steeple of Market Harborough Church, though so near, may not have excited the admiration which it deserves. It is one of the most beautiful of broach steeples, and we in Leicestershire may feel justly proud of it. In Northamptonshire there are some instances of an attempt to combine in one both the broached and the parapetted spire. This you will see illustrated by Desborough steeple.

The happy invention which necessity not unfrequently gives rise to sometimes appeared in the erection of a tower or bell-gable, to secure a failing western wall. Of this we have a good instance at Burton, near Melton;* and a better at Romsley, in Worcestershire. The plan is to make the new erection partly within and partly without the church; from the support so given the wall is prevented from falling either way, and the two buttresses on the exterior being united by an arch, to carry the superstructure, a feature as good as it is unique, developes itself in a kind of spontaneous design. I submit Romsley as giving an example of this.

In inviting your attention to the church of Hawton, near Newark, I regret that I have not complete delineations of it to lay before you. A more tasteful structure than the decorated chancel of this church can scarcely be conceived. The exterior is not gorgeous, but truly good. In all its proportions and details it is a standard and study of excellence. The grand seven-light window, which, with its flowing tracery adorns the east, can scarcely divert attention from the beauties of the southern side. Upon whatever point the eye fixes, whether the buttresses, the base mouldings and string courses, the cornice, the doorway, the three southern windows, or any other part, perfection seems to smile upon it everywhere. The engraving which I produce, I am happy to think, gives some idea of the building; and I am the more pleased because it gives us one arrangement, which shows a very bold stroke of a master mind, whereby, with singular success, a difficulty has been overcome, which conventionalities would have rendered to inferior minds insuperable. The southern side of the chancel is divided by simple but elegant buttresses into three equal bays, and in per-

* The accompanying illustration of the peculiarity referred to by Mr. Wing has been obligingly drawn on the spot, expressly for this volume, by Mr. Joseph Goddard, Architect, Leicester, to whose artistic skill this society is constantly indebted.

fecting the design, it was necessary to have a corresponding window in each. Here was the difficulty: for a door was equally necessary, not only for utility, but to relieve in some degree the dulness of uniformity; and where was room for it to be found? The designer has not hesitated to cut off a portion of the lower part of one side of the centre window with a blank piece of wall, defined with a skewtable cutting across in a slanting direction, as in perspective a porch would intersect a window, and yet without detriment. Into this portion so gained he has inserted a doorway worthy of the rest of the edifice. This church, it may be, is familiarly known to most of us, but those who are not acquainted with it, are advised to see it; not only is its exterior so good, but in the interior the sepulchre and founder's tomb afford equal if not greater attractions. The sepulchres formerly used in the worship of the Church of Rome having been usually of wood, are seldom found in existence in our English churches. The most interesting example in this district is, I apprehend, that at Ashwell, on this side Oakham. But the most famous for their profusion of ornament are those of Heckington and Hawton. Of the former I have a print; in producing it as giving some idea of the latter one, I have to remark that it is mutilated and inferior to it. The exquisite enrichment of the walls of Hawton chancel by the founder's tomb and the sepulchre, it is impossible to describe. The work is in excellent preservation, and is as good in execution as in design.

A person of a practised eye often finds annoyance from the unsatisfactory representations of architectural subjects given in engravings. The church at Melton in the best yet published is, so to speak, every stone wrong; and consequently it is no guide to the periods and styles of its different parts. For my own satisfaction I undertook, a few years ago, to make an architectural drawing of it, and have been induced to bring it to lay before the meeting. In two instances the church suffers very materially from dilapidations. The parapet of the aisles has disappeared, and the caps or pinnacles of the porch octangular buttresses have perished, and been replaced by debased substitutes. In the drawing I have restored the parapet, and the pinnacles I have ventured to supply from a design furnished by a canopy in York Minster.

The Rev. E. W. Woodcock exhibited a rubbing of the brass of Sir Roger de Trumpington, of the date 1289, from Trumpington Church, Cambridge. The head of the figure is supported by the tilting helmet, which is large and conical, having at its apex a staple for affixing either the heraldic crest or the lady's scarf, known in chivalry as the "kerchief of pleasaunce." The helmet itself is secured by a chain to the narrow cincture round the waist, with a view thus to enable the knight to recover this important piece of his defensive equipment should he chance to be unhelmed

in the *melée*. The shield of Sir R. de Trumpington is large and concave, charged with the armorial bearings of the family, azure, crusuly, two trumpets in pale. The armour is chain-mail, surmounted by a loose surcoat, reaching below the knees and confined to the waist by a cord. The sword is crossed in front of the body. Sir R. de Trumpington accompanied Edward I., before he ascended the throne, to the Holy Land, and his brass is the only one in existence, which is certainly and without doubt that of a crusader. Sir R. de Trumpington was present, in A.D. 1278, at the Windsor Tournament and in the very armour represented on his brass, as appears from the tournament roll.

MR. WOODCOCK also exhibited a rubbing of the brass of Sir Richard de Buslingthorpe, from Buslingthorpe Church, Lincolnshire, of the date of A.D. 1289, which, and the brass of Sir R. de Trumpington, with one exception, are the earliest brasses known to exist. The armour is identical with that of Sir R. de Trumpington; between the hands is a small heart; there is no shield or weapon. A third rubbing was also exhibited by Mr. Woodcock from the brass (demi figure) of an unknown knight, in banded ring-mail, supposed to be Sir John d'Orby, of the date of A.D. 1380, from Croft Church, Lincolnshire.

MR. T. W. H. MILLER (through the Secretary) exhibited a rubbing taken by himself from a tomb in Wimborne Minster, of a Saxon King, with the following inscription: "*In hoc loco quiescit corpus sti Ethelredi, regis West Saxonum, Martyris, qui Ano. Dom.* 873, 23 *Die Aprilis, per Manus Dacorum Paganorum occubit.*" Below this is a shield charged with cross-fleury. It is a demi figure with a sceptre, and crowned.

MR. NORTH exhibited some very beautiful duplicates of ancient and modern seals and medals, electrotyped by Mr. Weatherhead, Curator of the Leicester Museum; they were much admired and commended. Mr. North stated that Mr. Weatherhead could furnish by this process at a very trifling cost, duplicates of any antique or other seal or medal.

April 26*th*, 1858.

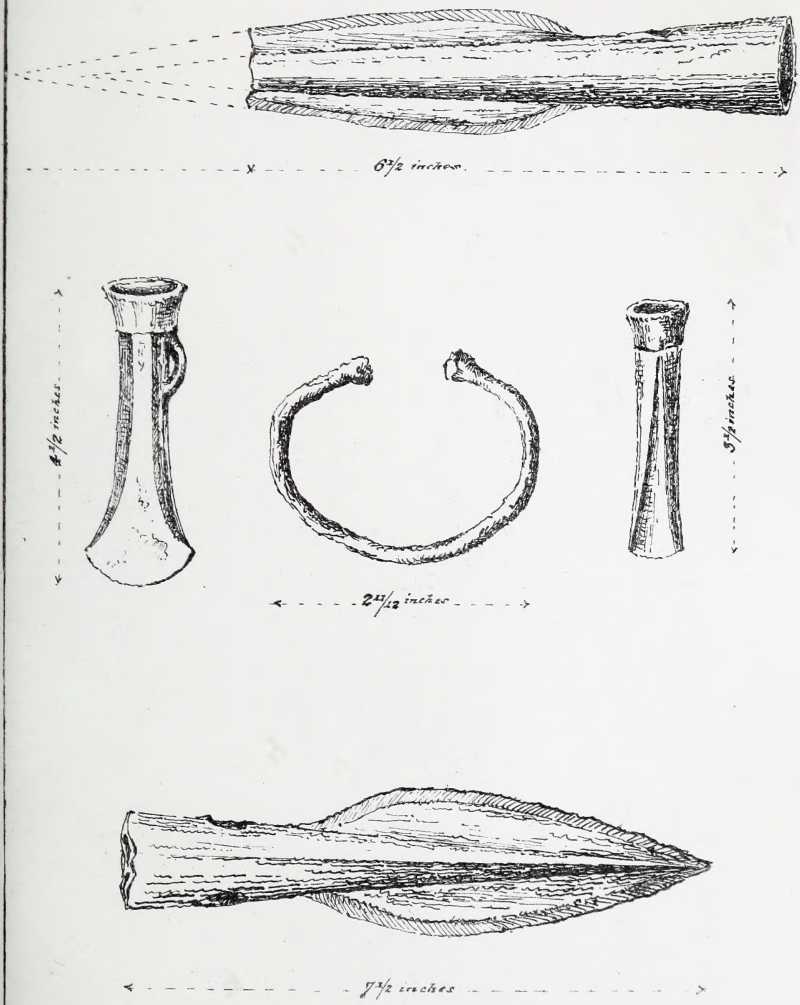
WILLIAM PERRY-HERRICK, ESQ., in the chair.

A letter was read from the Rev. L. Gregory stating that three new faces for the church clock at Oadby had been completed previously to his receiving the opinion expressed by the Society at its last meeting. It was still hoped by the Committee that the

threatened disfigurement of the structure might not be carried into effect.

Mr. Herrick exhibited two spear heads, two celts, and an armlet, all of bronze, recently discovered by some workmen employed by him in cutting a drive through the encampment on Beacon Hill, Charnwood Forest. The soil of a space measuring about six feet by three, where all the articles excepting the last were found, appeared to be different from the ground adjoining, some of this had therefore been sent by Mr. Herrick to Dr. Bernays, of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, to be analyzed. Dr. Bernays discovered it to contain bone, pottery of well-burnt clay, and wood charcoal. The spear heads were nearly alike, and of the shape which has been called "myrtle-leaf," with round sockets (without rings) for the wooden shafts to fit into, the sockets going some way into the blade of the head. One of the celts, about three inches long, was of an unusual description, being gouge-shaped, with a socket for receiving a handle. This kind of celt is of more common occurrence in Ireland than in England. [Four Irish specimens are engraved in the *Archæological Journal*, vol. iv. p. 335.] The armlet, which was unornamented, was found perhaps fifty yards from the other articles, and outside the encampment. These articles, according to recent classification, would be assigned to the Celtic period, *i. e.*, to the inhabitants of England previously to their subjugation by the Romans. The latter usually selected low and flat situations for their encampments, trusting to their own military skill for security, while the Britons availed themselves of naturally fortified positions—such as the Beacon Hill.

It was observed respecting the brass of King Etheldred, at Wimborne, Dorsetshire, of which a rubbing was exhibited at the last Meeting, that the demi-figure of the saint is assigned, in Manning's List of Monumental Brasses to about the year 1450, and in Simpson's List to about 1440, while the inscription was thought to be of the second half of the seventeenth century. During the restoration (so called) of Wimborne Minster, last year, another older inscription belonging to this figure was somewhere discovered. It is not unlikely that this latter one may have been removed when the Puritans were in power, during the Interregnum; and not being forthcoming after the Restoration, the present inscription was substituted for it. Leland, in Henry the Eighth's time, thus speaks of this monument: "King Etheldrede was byried by her" (S. Cuthburga, on the north side of the Presbytery), "whos Tumbe *was lately reparid*, and a Marble Stone ther layid with an image of a King in a Plate of Brasse with the inscription: '*In hoc loco quiescit corpus S. Etheldredi regis Wastsaxonum, martyris. qui Ao. Di.* 827, 13 *die Apr. per manus Danorum Paganorum occubuit.*'"—Vol. iii. fol. 55.



Spear-heads, Celt, Gouge-shaped celt or Chisel, and Armlet, of Bronze. Found at Beacon Hill, Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire. In the possession of W. Perry Herrick, Esq.

COWELL'S ANASTATIC PRESS IPSWICH

Mr. G. C. Bellairs exhibited an ancient stirrup, said to have been found near the Leicester Abbey.

Mr. T. Nevinson laid upon the table, as illustrative of Mr. Wing's essay, read at the February meeting, the large engravings of Hawton Church, Nottinghamshire, published by the Cambridge Camden Society. He also mentioned that during the recent repairs at Leicester Castle, some remains of its ancient Norman hall had been brought to light. Originally it was a large apartment, with aisles formed by two rows of oak pillars supporting the roof, five on each side, thirty feet high, and twenty-two inches square, with carved capitals. One only of these now remains entire. The halls of Oakham Castle (engraved in *Turner's Domestic Architecture*, vol. i.) and of Winchester, were of similar formation, but with stone pillars.

Mr. James Thompson then read some observations on Roman Leicester, particularly with reference to the outline of its walls. He held that there was originally a western wall, parallel with the eastern wall, and that a space was left between the Jewry wall and the river, in the same way as at York and Chester there was a wall on the river side of the encampment, under similar circumstances. In answer to an enquiry from the Chairman, Mr. Thompson stated it was his intention, on a future occasion, to follow out the consequences involved in the establishment of this position.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley produced a copy of a rare tract with the following title-page,—"A Sermon preached at Ashby-de-la-Zouch in the Countie of Leicester: at the Funerall of the truly noble and vertuous Lady Elizabeth Stanley, one of the daughters and coheirs of the Right Honourable Ferdinand late Earle of Derby, and late wife of Henrie Earle of Huntingdon the fifth Earle of that Familie. The 9th of February, Anno Dom. 1633. By T. F.—London. Printed by W. T. and T. P., and are to be sold by Matthew Simmons at his shop, at the Golden Lyon in Duck-lane, 1635." Next to the title page follows a portrait of the Countess in an oval, with two angels holding a coronet over the head; the arms of Hastings impaling Stanley, and the crests of those families,—the bull's head and bird-and-bantling,—being inserted in the corners. She has a long face with aquiline nose, her hair falls back upon her shoulders; she wears a falling ruff and tight figured dress.* After an epitaph by Lord Falkland follows the text, St. John xi. 25. The present copy is bound in vellum with gilt tooling, and has the Stanley crest and coronet stamped upon the sides. On a fly-leaf is written in a hand of the period,—"Eliza Fowler her Booke given her by the Right Honble.

* This engraving is by John Payne, of whom Bryan says,—"his portraits are the most esteemed of his prints; they are executed entirely with the graver, in a free, open style, and produce a very pleasing effect."

Henry Earle of Huntingdon." Her descendant, the Rev. C. Inge, of Benn Hill, now possesses it.

The Rev. J. O. Picton, and Mr. H. J. Davis, were elected members of the society; and the Rev. W. B. Moore was added to the committee.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Herrick for presiding and for his valuable contribution to the articles exhibited.

June 28th, 1858.

THE REV. R. BURNABY in the chair.

MR. JAMES THOMPSON exhibited a drawing, by Mr. H. Goddard, of the hall of Leicester Castle, as it appeared previously to the alterations effected in 1821, when its original appearance was entirely destroyed; together with a ground plan of several portions of it. Engravings of these are to accompany the paper on Leicester Castle, read by Mr. Thompson at the annual meeting of the society in 1856, which is about to be printed.

THE REV. J. M. GRESLEY produced an anastatic print, by Miss Gresley, of the antiquities discovered on Beacon Hill, in March last by Mr. Herrick, at whose expense a sufficient number of impressions will be taken for presentation to the members of the society.*

THE REV. E. W. WOODCOCK exhibited casts, in copper, of the great seal of King Edward the Confessor, the inscription on which is, "SIGILLVM EADWARDI ANGLORVM BASILEI." The word *Basilei* instead of *Regis* is an interesting indication of the knowledge and use of the Greek language among the Anglo-Saxons. Humphrey, in his book on Common Prayer, states that King Athelstane's Psalter contains the earliest existing copy of the Nicene Creed, and that it is in Greek, but written in Saxon characters. The knowledge of Greek among the Anglo-Saxons points to the connection between the early Church of England and the Eastern Church. It shows that the Latin language had not then that exclusive possession which it certainly obtained in England between the Norman Conquest and the revival of learning. The fact that Christianity was introduced originally from the Eastern Church, through Gaul, and that the usages of the East (as for instance, the time of keeping Easter) prevailed in England until the Conquest, and among the Anglo-Saxons even after, is well known. The knowledge, therefore, of the Greek among the Anglo-Saxons, and of the Latin exclusively among the Normans, is important. The Norman Conquest brought Rome, and the lan-

* Kindly reproduced by Mr. Joseph Goddard for these Transactions.—*See facing page* 168.

guage of Rome, in a way, to England, which S. Augustine's mission had failed to do, although the succession of the clergy of the previous Eastern Church of England had been superseded by the western missionaries.

Mr. Neale exhibited an angel of the thirty-fourth year of Henry VIII., the peculiarity of which consists in an amulet or gun-hole on the side of the ship on the reverse.—*Folkes, pl.* vi. *fig.* 6.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley produced rubbings of the brass of S. Ethelred, in Wimborne Minster, and of the inscription belonging to it, mentioned at the last meeting as having been discovered during the restoration of the church last year, which is as follows: "*In hoc loco qviescit corpvs Sancti Ethelredi Regis West-Saxonvm Martyris, qvi Anno Domini* 872 : 23 *die Aprilis per manvs Dacorvm Paganorvm occvbvit.*"

This inscription is upon a plate measuring 10½ by 3 inches. It differs from the inscription now in the church, in having no contractions, and also having the date 872 instead of 873, the latter, according to Hutchins, being a wrong one. Leland says the date when he visited Wimborne (temp. Hen. VIII.) was 827, "evidently a misprint," says Hutchins, "for 872;" which shows that it was the inscription recently discovered, if either of them, which Leland saw. But although evidently more ancient than the present inscription, the one discovered has the appearance of being of the close rather than the commencement of the sixteenth century.

Mr. Gresley also exhibited the following antiquities discovered last year in the Minster and Stow Pools at Lichfield, which have been let dry in order to the latter being formed into a reservoir for the town of Walsall. They are now in the possession of C. Gresley, Esq.:—A small iron battle-axe, seventeen inches in length: this was probably used as a *martel-de-fer*, an offensive weapon, used for breaking through chain-mail and plates of armour, in order to make an opening for a lance or sword thrust—A spur, singularly shaped, of perhaps the last century—An ancient steel horse-shoe: by striking the holes for the nails, several of which remain in them, the outer edge has a scalloped shape—Several narrow sharp-pointed knives, from 7½ to 9 inches long, of the sixteenth century: the haft of one of them is of black bone, inlaid with trefoils and ornaments of brass—A large clasp-knife, with buck's-horn haft, twelve inches in length—Several keys of the fifteenth or sixteenth centuries, and a small one of still older date—A piece of early English pottery, perhaps of the twelfth or thirteenth century. It is of reddish and grey clay, with a green glaze. The head and tail are broken off. It is hollow, and has a large aperture at the breast; but it does not look as if it could ever have been used as a jug or bottle. The length of it is 6½ inches.—Fragment of the

neck of a Flemish stone-ware jug, called a "Greybeard," or "Bellarmine," of the sixteenth or seventeenth century—Soles of shoes of the thirteenth or fourteenth century, with small heels, narrow instep, broad across the ball of the foot, and quite a sharp point at the toe—Soles of shoes of the fifteenth century, much the same shape as the others, but round at the toe—A leaden seal, or bull, of one of the Popes, whose name is obliterated: two rude faces upon the other side have over them, S PA[ULUS] S PE[TRUS]—A number of brass counters, commonly called Nuremburg tokens, formerly used for making calculations, by an arrangement something similar to that of markers at whist, which is doubtless a remnant of the old practice: the devices upon these tokens are various and interesting, consisting of ornamental crosses, fleur-de-lis, heraldic bearings, ships, the globe surmounted by the cross, &c.: one was plainly an imitation of the silver pennies of Edward I. and II., but with pellats in place of the legend—Two leaden counters, one of them with the letter K, the other apparently a saint's head and glory about it—An angel of the seventeenth year of James I., with a hole through it for suspension, it having been given to a person when touched by the King for the evil. The reverse has a ship with the royal arms on the mainsail.—*Folkes, pl.* xii. *fig.* 7.

There have also been discovered in these pools some cannon balls; an unexploded shell, ten inches in diameter; some Lichfield, Coventry, and Tamworth tokens of the seventeenth century; a considerable quantity of stags' horns, &c. Prints of some of these antiquities appeared in the volume of the Anastatic Drawing Society for 1857, and in the Companion to the Lichfield Diocesan Church Calendar for 1858. The Misericordia, or Coup de Grace sword, in the latter publication, is of the time of Mary or Elizabeth. The "Malabar Crease" is not correctly so called; it is a Mahratta dagger.

Mr. Thompson read the following report, which was unanimously adopted:—

"The Sub-Committee appointed to make the preliminary arrangements for the annual meeting have to report—

"That they recommend the holding of the meeting this year at Market Harborough, on Wednesday, the 28th of July.

"That W. de Capel Brooke, Esq., the Rev. F. P. Johnson, the Rev. T. James, and S. W. Cox, Esq., Secretary, will undertake to act as a Local Committee.

"That they recommend the arrangements for the meeting to be left to the Local Committee, the Committee undertaking to pay the necessary expenses.

"That they recommend the adoption of the following route for the Excursion, on Thursday, July 29th: Harborough, Great

Bowden, Welham, Medbourne, Holt (?), Hallaton, Cranoe, Gloosston, Staunton Wyville, Langton, to the railway station at Kibworth Harcourt.

"That S. W. Cox, Esq., Local Secretary, will be happy to receive any objects of interest and curiosity for the Exhibition at the annual meeting."

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

July 28*th*, 1858.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

In accordance with the arrangements mentioned at the last meeting, the Annual General Meeting was held in Market Harborough on this day. A temporary Museum, which will be noticed presently, was opened at the Corn Exchange.

At half-past twelve o'clock, the members of the society and their friends assembled at the Parish Church, which had recently been restored, where they were received by the Incumbent, The Rev. F. P. Johnson, who in the course of his remarks upon the ancient history of the fabric, and upon the works of restoration recently completed, pointed out two sedilia on the south side of the chancel, and stated that they (or rather one and a half of them) had been discovered during the progress of the works, and he expressed a doubt whether from the line of the window above cutting one of these in half, that window was an original one. He thought it probable that it might have been removed with others, from the church of St. Mary-in-Arden when it was destroyed.

The Rev. T. James being requested to give a description of the church, expressed his regret at the absence of the Rev. G. Poole, of Welford, who, he said, would have performed the task much more ably than he could do. The great feature of the church, as they all might perceive, was its extremely beautiful tower and spire, which were built on the pyramidical principle from the very basement to the apex. Every stage of the tower battered in, and there was not a single perpendicular line about it. If they examined all the finest spires in Europe, he believed they would find them formed on a similar principle. He could not agree that the window alluded to had been brought from another church. He thought that the chancel, tower, and spire were built in the early part of the fourteenth century, and that the same architect designed the whole. This might be inferred from the similarity of the window referred to, and the fine geometrical east window, which had been so well restored. It was remarkable that in the fifteenth century they cut the whole of the nave, put in architecture of a

very inferior character, and added a perpendicular clerestory. The roof having decayed, he supposed to save the expense of replacing the timbers, they thought it better to carry up the walls and put in a clerestory. They did this generally, they added always to the nave, but seldom as in this case, put a clerestory to the chancel. He could hardly think they intended to leave a memorial of the architectural history of the church, but there was one fourteenth century window left in the nave. Against the tower there might be seen the pitch of the lofty roof. Probably the aisles had formerly gabled roofs.

The Rev. F. P. Johnson called attention to a doorway discovered in the chancel near the sedilia, which was, what was commonly called the priest's door. He thought that was a wrong name, because the opening was inside, and considered its more probable object was to allow the communicants to retire without turning their backs to the altar.

The Rev. T. James congratulated Mr. Johnson on the restoration of the church, and the alteration from the old high pews, with people looking in all directions, to the present low open seats, all facing one way. He was sorry that the necessity for accommodating the congregation would not allow of dispensing with the galleries. One thing, he thought, would much improve the chancel, the introduction of stained glass.

The Rev. F. P. Johnson said that he was about filling one light with stained glass, and believed that others would follow the example.

Mr. Ordish believed that the old name for the door in the chancel was the correct one, as the priests and officials were the only persons who had access there in the ancient times. He did not quite concur in the opinion which seemed to be entertained that the early geometrical was the only style of architecture to be adopted, but believed that the early perpendicular was more beautiful and better suited to modern requirements. Mr. Pugin in the latter part of his career had come to be of the same opinion.

Other observations were made as to the unadvisability of destroying the historic features of a church in restoration by taking away later work in order to make the style uniform; and the party then left the church, and proceeded to the Corn Exchange to inspect

THE MUSEUM,

which was rich in antiquities and works of art, architectural plans, drawings, and models. Unfortunately only a meagre register of these has been preserved. The following list rather indicates the nature of the articles exhibited than anything approaching to a full statement of them.

Coins. English.—*Gold:* Henry the Eighth's angel; Elizabeth's sovereign; Elizabeth's fine sovereign; Edward the Third's noble. *Silver:* William Rufus's silver penny; Richard the Third's groat; Charles the First's half-crown, shilling, and sixpence; Elizabeth's milled shilling, sixpence, and fourpence; Cromwell's crown, half-crown, and shilling; George the Second's (proof) crown, half-crown, and shilling; Commonwealth crown; Anne's crown; George the First's crown; George the Third's (proof) crown; George the Fourth's (proof) crown. *Copper:* a case of proof copper coins, British and Colonial.—*Mr George Cowdell Neale, of Skeffington.*

A fine collection of English coins, numbering ninety-three in gold; five hundred and eight in silver; and one hundred and ten in copper; being, with only a few vacancies, a complete series of the English coinage, from William the Conqueror to the present time.—*Mr. Boor, of Stamford.*

An extremely valuable cabinet of coins, English and Foreign.—*The Rev. A. Pownall, of South Kilworth.*

Various English coins.—*Mr. T. Hind.*

Tiles.—*Ancient.*—From Pipewell Abbey.—*Mr. G. H. Fisher.*

„ *Modern.*—Various examples.—*Messrs. Minton, and Messrs. Maw and Co., Broseley.*

Models.—Various; for Christian monuments, intended to supersede the usual upright stones so long in use.—*Mr. Walpole, Market Harborough.*

Mural Decoration.—One table devoted to specimens of modern stencilling upon wood, which both in design and colour reflected great credit upon the exhibitor.—*Mr. C. J. Lea, of Lutterworth.*

Photographs.—Of Melrose Abbey and various others.—*The Rev. T. James, of Theddingworth.*

Collection illustrating the stock of antique furniture belonging to *Mr. G. Attenborough*, 72, *Strand, London.*

Collection comprising many churches, &c., in the county.—*Mr. T. C. Browne, Leicester.*

A series illustrative of Market Harborough and the neighbourhood.—*Mr. W. J. Jennings, Market Harborough.*

Original Drawings.—*Chiefly Architectural.*—Beautiful series in water-colours illustrative of towers and spires, chiefly in Northamptonshire.—*Mr. E. F. Law, Architect, Northampton.*

A set of drawings of Gothic domestic, and ecclesiatical buildings.—*Mr. Edward Browning, Architect, Stamford.*

A collection of elevations.—*Mr. William Slater, Architect.*

Designs for Rawden College.—*Mr. J. G. Bland, Birmingham.*

Tur-Langton bell-turret: Queniborough spire: Twyford font: gable-cross, Twyford Church: Norman capital in same church: seats in the chancel of Gaddesby Church: bench ends in Houghton Church: tracery in Tilton Church: bench ends in Tur-Langton Church: stalls in Rothwell Church: gable-cross, Glooston chancel: upwards of two hundred original designs for seat-ends, pulpits, prayer-desks,

altar-rails, chairs, lecterns, &c.—*Mr. Henry Goddard, Architect, Leicester.*

Volume of drawings by the Anastatic Society.—*The Rev. J. M. Gresley.*

Prints and Engravings.—A collection of the publications of the *Arundel Society.*

A selection of prints and lithographs.—*Mr. Henry Goddard.*

Portraits of Kings Charles I. and II., and other engravings.—*The Rev. J. H. Hill.*

Paintings.—The Deluge; the Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah; both by Kœnig: Figures at a Watertrough, by Bergheim.—*Mr. G. C. Neale.*

Portrait of the Rev. Richard Morosse, Rector of Little Bowden, temp. Charles I. and II.—*Mr. Ward.*

Portrait of Mary Queen of Scots.—*Mr. S. W. Cox.*

Typography.—Stukeley's Works—Itinerarium Curiosum, Stonehenge, Palæographia Britannica, &c. &c.: Peck's (of Goadby) Works,—Desiderata Curiosa, Life of Cromwell, Life of Milton, and others: Burton's Leicestershire: Throsby's Leicestershire (3 vols.): Throsby's Leicestershire Views: Macaulay's Claybrooke: Harrod's Market Harborough: Martin's Naseby: Stamford Mercury for 1715, and many others.—*Mr. Boor, of Stamford.*

"Missale Romanum ex Decreto S. S. Concilii Tridentini Restitutum;" printed at Rome during the papacy of Clement XI. (1714), and many other valuable books.—*The Rev. J. H. Hill, of Cranoe.*

Carvings.—The twelve Cæsars carved in ivory.—*Mr. G. C. Neale.*

Two carved panels, one the Sacrifice of Isaac, the other (temp. Henry VII.) representing the arms of Henry VII. encircled by a garter, then first used.—*The Rev. Thomas James.*

Grotesque carving of the sacred monogram I.H.S., fifteenth century.—*Mr. E. Browning.*

Richly carved upright box, dated 1664, with moveable front.—*Mrs. Neale, of Skeffington.*

Ancient carved cabinet.—*Mr. W. S. Cox.*

Pottery, &c.—A table was devoted to this which comprised, among many interesting examples, a beautiful specimen of Pallissy ware, of about A.D. 1560, examples of Dresden and other ware.—*Mr. W. H. Gatty.*

Medallion of early Staffordshire ware, by Enoch Wood, in 1777.—*Mr. G. C. Neale.*

Mediæval pottery found in Whittlesea Mere.—*The Hon. Mrs. Watson.*

Roman Antiquities.—A good collection of these were exhibited, including those recently found at Hallaton, fibula found at Oundle, a collection of coins, Roman pottery, &c. &c.—*Mr. Bell, of Great Easton, Mr. Heygate, of Market Harborough, and others.*

Anglo-Saxon Antiquities.—A fine collection, many being exhibited by *The Rev. E. Trollope.*

Miscellaneous.—Beautiful ancient chalice, now used in the church of S. Giles, Blaston, in this County, and supposed to be the original

one formerly belonging to the chapel attached to a hunting seat of King Richard I. at Blaston.—*The Rev. G. C. Fenwicke.*

Pilgrim's scallop-shell from Jerusalem (Byzantine art), upon which appeared the three kings of Cologne presenting their gifts to the infant Saviour, who was figured upon the lap of the Virgin, S. Joseph standing near.—*The Rev. T. James.*

Head of processional cross in bronze, fourteenth century.—*Mr. E. Browning.*

A large and valuable collection of Egyptian curiosities, ancient and modern.—*The Rev. R. F. Palmer.*

Rare and beautiful specimens of Thibetian and Cashmerian works of art and antiquities.—*The Rev. T. James.*

A large collection of rubbings of brasses.—*The Northamptonshire Architectural Society.*

Several rubbings of brasses in churches in Bucks.—*Mr. G. Shovelbottom.*

Numerous swords and weapons from Naseby field: a gold medal found there, bearing the head of Fairfax.—*The Rev. T. James.*

Indian curiosities.—*Mr. J. H. Douglas.*

The Annual Meeting of Members was held in the Committee Room, Corn Exchange, at three o'clock. The Rev. W. A. B. Cave in the chair.

THE REPORT.

The following Report for the past year was read by Mr. G. C. Bellairs, Honorary Secretary.

Your Society has now been established three years, and is becoming gradually better known, and we are justified in believing it to be steadily advancing and improving with a prospect of more extended usefulness.

Thirteen new members have been added to the list, and your society now numbers ninety-three members. We have to regret the loss of a few members by death; and several gentlemen included in our first list have since intimated that their names were erroneously enrolled amongst our numbers, which deceived your committee as to the number of your society's supporters. But we can now say that we are on a firm footing, gradually gaining strength, and may shortly attain to the importance of our neighbouring fellow societies, though Leicestershire being one of the smallest of England's counties we must not hope for too much.

There has not been this year any architectural plans laid before your committee, but being so recently established we cannot expect at present to be much consulted in such matters. Were our various architectural societies more consulted as to ecclesiastical architectural plans, the appearance and more especially

the convenience of new and restored churches and ecclesiastical buildings would be much increased, and great blunders obviated.

The bi-monthly meetings of your society have been well attended and greatly interesting. The quantities of antiquities, drawings, photographs, and rubbings, exhibited at such meetings have been very considerable; short papers relating to objects exhibited and general subjects, relating to architecture and archæology have been read at these meetings, such papers with the other proceedings of the meetings have been published in the local journals, and need not be here enumerated.

The bi-monthly meetings are open to all members and their friends, and we strongly urge the members of your society more frequently to attend these meetings. The general meeting of last year was held at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, when one of the largest and best exhibitions of the kind, consisting of antiquities, paintings, drawings, and all kinds of curiosities, was opened for public view. The interesting ruins of the castle and the church of Ashby were visited under the able guidance of the Rev. J. M. Gresley. Several interesting papers were afterwards read.

The excursion of the following day comprised visits to Repton church and schools, where, through excavations made, the foundations of the Old Priory Church of Repton have been brought to light; from thence to Anchor Church; we then proceeded to Melbourne Church, where a paper upon that fine old and very interesting edifice was read by the Rev. Joseph Deans; the society and their friends then proceeded to view the beautiful gardens of Melbourne Hall, and were afterwards hospitably entertained by Mr. Briscoe. They then proceeded to view the church of Breedon-on-the-Hill, and the remains of the ancient British camp there; and from thence proceeded to Staunton Harold Church and Hall, where the valuable collection of antiquities belonging to Earl Ferrers were inspected—the noble Earl himself conducting the society, and where the society were afterwards again entertained, and after visiting Coleorton Hall and Church, returned to Ashby and separated.

Since the period of our last report several churches have been rebuilt or restored; among others we may mention the parish churches of Belgrave, Humberstone, Rearsby, Scalford, Kilby, Harborough, and Theddingworth. These various works have not been brought prominently before your committee, though they have noticed their progress with satisfaction and pleasure.

Among the discoveries of ancient remains brought under our notice this year, are included several but not very important remains found during the excavations made during the sewerage works in Leicester. The excavations made under the superintendence of some of your committee in the grounds of Leicester Abbey, with a view to the discovery of the position and some

remains of the church and monastic buildings, have not hitherto been attended with success, but will be resumed in the ensuing autumn. A highly interesting discovery of ancient British remains has been made by some workmen employed by Mr. Herrick, one of our presidents, in cutting a drive in the neighbourhood of his beautiful residence, Beaumanor Park, and near the ancient British encampment on Beacon Hill. The remains consist of two spear heads of the myrtle-leaf shape, two celts, one gouge-shaped and very rare in this country, and an armlet, all of bronze. Mr. Herrick had the surrounding soil analysed, which proved to be composed of charcoal, and the remains of bones and pottery, leaving no doubt that he has discovered a burial-place of some of the ancient Britons. An anastatic drawing of these interesting remains has been made, and a copy presented to each member of your society at the expense of Mr. Herrick.

In the recent alterations of the Castle of Leicester, the original plan of the interior of the old Norman hall has been made apparent, but we regret to say now almost altogether obliterated. A paper by Mr. Thompson, read at one of the first general meetings of your society at Leicester, upon the architecture and history of this fine old remain, will shortly be published, and we strongly recommend the members of your society to obtain a copy, and regret that the circumstances of your society will not allow of its being published at your society's expense.

Your committee congratulate this society on the highly interesting and valuable volume this year distributed amongst you. Great thanks are due to Mr. Trollope, the general secretary, for the publication of joint reports and papers, for the great trouble he has had, and the time he has sacrificed in bringing out this work.

Annexed to this report is a statement of the accounts of your society, which declare a balance now in hand of £19. 17s. 4d., and there are sixty subscriptions still unpaid, making the total balance at £49. 17s. 4d.: out of this the expenses of the publication of the annual volume and the expenses of this meeting will have to be paid, which are estimated together at about from £25. to £30. From this it will be perceived that we much require subscriptions to be paid early in the year, and that a further increase of subscribers would greatly benefit your society. Your committee have no doubt that many more subscribers might be added to our numbers, and hope that the members will endeavour to obtain supporters.

Your committee can, however, sincerely congratulate your society on its increased strength and increasing efficiency.

The Rev. J. H. Hill moved, and Mr. G. C. Neale seconded,—That the report be adopted; which was carried.

Mr. James Thompson moved, and Mr. H. Goddard seconded, —That the report be published in the society's volume for the current year; which was carried.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley stated that Mr. W. P. Herrick had kindly allowed him to take drawings of some Roman remains found on his estate in the forest, and had had them engraved and printed, so that each member of the society could have a copy. He begged to move a vote of thanks to Mr. Herrick for his kindness in making them the present.

The motion was seconded by Mr. J. Thompson, and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Mayor of Leicester, for the use of the Town Library, for the meetings of the society during the year.

The Rev. G. C. Fenwicke, of Blaston, the Rev. F. P. Johnson, Messrs. S. W. Cox, and W. H. Gatty, were elected members of the society.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, moved by the Rev. J. M. Gresley, and seconded by the Rev. J. H. Hill, closed the business of the meeting.

A Dinner took place at half-past five, at the Angel Hotel, at which about thirty gentlemen sat down. W. de Capel Brooke, Esq., occupied the chair. The proceedings were chiefly complimentary.

The Evening Public Meeting was held in the temporary Museum, Corn Exchange.

W. de Capel Brooke, Esq., in the chair.

The first Paper read was by the Rev. E. Trollope, F.S.A., on

THE USE AND ABUSE OF RED BRICKS.

Bricks, and especially "red" bricks, are almost always mentioned with great disrespect in connexion with architecture; so that, when admirers of that noble science hear upon their travels, of a town, or a church, or, indeed, of any building constructed of brick, they usually say to their drivers, "On, on! there is no pleasure or even repose for our own eyes there; do not deposit us in a locality where one side of the way is glowing, with a coarsely ruddy aspect, at an equally ruddy opposite row of houses; or where a church of the same hue was built some eighty years ago, whose smooth, thin walls, meagre slate roof, and Venetian east window already droop across our imagination to the depression of our spirits, or to the irritation of our optic nerves, according to the character of our

respective temperaments, before so unpleasant a sight has again been forced upon our actual sense of vision." Bricks, however, are not only a necessity, but a building material for which a deep debt of gratitude has been justly due from a most remote period to the present time; moreover, it will be my endeavour to demonstrate how they may be made to please the eye of him whose apprehension of colour is most complete, by their judicious use, combined with a slight distribution of other tints serving to relieve the monotony of their usual hue.

A stoneless district compels its inhabitants to use brick as a building material, or else something worse. Babylon, we know, at a very early period in the world's history betook itself to brick making, and so have all cities situate on alluvial plains, such as those of Assyria and Egypt; whilst the Romans, whose powers of adaptation are still a wonder to us, became so enamoured of the use of wide bricks from their utility in forming vaultings, bonding-courses, arches, &c., that—even in localities where stone was good and plentiful—they still practised the lessons taught them by the forced use of bricks, and inserted layers of these throughout their stone structures, as may be seen at the so-called Mint Wall at Lincoln, &c. Nor were bricks repudiated by our Saxon forefathers, as evinced by Brixworth church, Northants., and that at Dover within the castle precincts; whilst their occasional use in the erection of costly buildings has ever since prevailed all over Europe, as well as in the East, and very often in preference to stone. Of the twelfth century brickwork, St. Botolph's Priory, Colchester, offers a remarkable example in England, and the church of St. Foi, at Agen, in the south of France. Of the close of the following century, Little Wenham Hall, in Suffolk, presents a very pleasing specimen. During the fourteenth century, brick was but little used in England for constructional or ornamental purposes; but in France, the cathedral of Alby was then built, with its immense vault, 88 feet wide by 90 high, and its tower 290 feet high; also the college of St. Rémond, and the walls and many houses at Toulouse; whilst in Italy it was employed very extensively, with the best effect, in conjunction with stone and marble,—sometimes in a linear disposition, as in the instance of the west front of St. Fermo Maggiore at Verona, and sometimes wholly, as in that of the north transept of the cathedral at Cremona.

During the fifteenth century, many edifices were constructed of brick, such as the castle of Kirby Muxloe in Leicestershire, the barbican and portions of Thornton abbey, &c.; and a most remarkable indication of the tendency to adopt brickwork, even for the reparation of stone churches, at that period, is exhibited in the case of Granby church, Notts.; the east end of its chancel—including a good perpendicular window—having been then inserted

in a building otherwise entirely of stone. Such a proceeding was indeed most preposterous, and the perpendicular style is the one of all others, perhaps, least adapted to be worked out in bricks, when totally unaided by stone mullions and tracery; nevertheless, the fancy has been in this instance wonderfully well executed, by means of moulded bricks, every detail and moulding of an ordinary stone perpendicular window having been most exactly imitated; and, whilst the rest of the church is in a dilapidated condition, this feature is as perfect and sharp, as to its outlines, as it was on the day when it was composed. The width of the window is twelve feet, its height about twenty; and its mullions have been cast in portions eighteen inches long.

A specimen of domestic architecture, very richly worked out in brick of a rather later period, is the old manor house at East Barsham, near Fakenham, in Norfolk. This is now in a ruinous condition, and partly converted into an ordinary farmhouse; but its doorway, flanked by octangular turrets and surmounted by the royal arms, forms a most excellent lesson as to the judicious use of brick in conjunction with stone dressings. Red brick was a favourite building material in the reigns of Henry VIII., Elizabeth, and James I., as declared by Wolsey's palace of Hampton Court; Torksey Castle; the now dilapidated Franks Hall, near Dartford, built in 1596; Little Charlton House, in Kent, with its acutely angled central bay windows; the Hussey Tower, on the outskirts of Boston, with its octangular turret, bold cable string-course, and other details in brick; and the old manor house at Hollingbourne, in the same county, which is a most interesting building, and well worthy of study—with its picturesque gables, good string-courses, chimnies, solid oak window-mullions fitted in stone casings, without; and within, its characteristic hall, separated from the entrance by a carved oak screen at one end, and opening into a withdrawing-room at the other, panelled with oak, each panel being enriched with a pattern in gold applied to its surface, still surprisingly fresh; and with its gallery and other rooms above, displaying excellent deep cornices of the Renaissance school in plaster, and ceilings once entirely covered with stencilled designs of a similar character. Nor must we omit the well-known Holland House, built by Sir Walter Cope in 1607, where Addison breathed his last, and so many men of notorious wit and talent met together under the auspices of the late Lord Holland; and Hatfield House, built in 1611 for Robert Earl of Salisbury; but the finest example of this class, although not the largest, is Sutton Place, near Guilford, built during the reign of Henry VIII. This house is of brick throughout, and shews most distinctly how much may be done with this material, even when entirely unaided by stone. Its doorway is surmounted by a panel of moulded bricks representing Cupids within enriched borders, and flanked by small

octangular turrets entirely covered with "tuns" in relief—the device of the builder, or with his initials. The walls are occasionally diversified with reticulated patterns in black bricks; and the string-courses and even the mullions of the windows, also of brick, are ornamented with richly moulded patterns, in which the family tun has always a conspicuous place; the whole façade, after having been much diversified by bay windows, and boldly projecting features, is surmounted by an elaborately decorated parapet and slender octagonal pinnacles, &c.

During the reigns of the two Charleses, brick was not much in vogue for building purposes; but it again strongly prevailed in the reign of William III., who, fresh from his beloved Holland, hastened to raise up reminiscences of his native land in the brick additions with which he entirely spoiled the previous beauty of Hampton Court Palace, and has transmitted to us a specimen of his taste in the so called palace at Kensington, in which the red masses to be seen at Amsterdam have been repeated, but without any of the picturesque gables and stone dressings which there tone down this somewhat difficult hue to deal with. Unfortunately, the Georgian era possessed no architectural life; and London, content to pursue the Kensington style, has become a brick monster, which may well cause metropolitan artists and architects to shudder at the very name of brick, although it need not, I think, drive them into the arms of Mr. Stucco as the only means of escape from the dingy yellow or dull red series of façades surrounding them on every side; neither would it by any means be hopeless to throw a beautiful shadow over the town of Harborough, although at present its street architecture cannot boast of any attractions. Here, as in London, a child could in three minutes represent the appearance of hundreds of houses. He has nothing to do but to take an oblong piece of dull or bright red paper, to cut out of it from five to eight smaller oblongs, placed at regular intervals, in three rows, one above another; to fill these in with bits of glass, in order to present us with a correct model of London or Harborough street architecture. But is there any positive necessity for repeating such productions? Why should modern brick houses always be so ugly, when old edifices of the same material are often esteemed so beautiful that gentlemen of acknowledged talent and taste, and, still better, architects with a true love for their art, will travel many miles to see such an edifice as that of Tattershall or Torksey castles? And, lest it should be said here "you are comparing small things with great," I will observe that several of the beautiful specimens of brickwork I have before alluded to are by no means large, and that with a few modifications they would be readily divisible, and adapted to form portions of streets, whether of shops or of private residences.

Permit me now to say a few words—*First*, on the general

principles that should be observed in the use of red bricks as a building material; *Secondly*, as to their disposition in ecclesiastical structures, so as to produce a good effect; *Thirdly*, as to their best arrangement in the case of dwelling-houses.

The colour of the material we are treating of requires us to handle it with more thoughtfulness than we need bestow upon stone. Build up, side by side, two flat squares of white stone and red brick, and it will be found that the negative colour of the former is less in need of shades to relieve its monotony than the positive one of the latter. So also, upon the application of these two materials; if a plain mass of free-stone is raised up to serve, for instance, as the pedestal of a statue, the effect is not bad; but if the same were to be carried out in red brickwork, it would be pronounced atrocious; and yet, a painter would often be more thankful for a dash of this latter hue in one of his most picturesque performances—as a contrast to his greys, blues, and greens—than to the former, because it is an excellent colour in combination. Who does not delight in the red coat of a mounted figure so frequently seen in the foreground of a Cuyp, or in a group of cows of the same hue as rendered by Cooper? but most daring would be the artist who, taken with the excellent effect produced by the judicious use of this colour, should venture to paint a street scene in Harborough, where he would require no other. But as a good architect must needs be a good artist too, when he has to deal with masses of red brick, he first calls upon nature to cover his glowing work with deep grey shades, by bringing some of its features forward, by deeply recessing others, and by repeating octangular features as often as possible, so as to make the most of the amount of shadow accorded him naturally. Knowing, further, how ill a straight line of heavy red looks when forced into contrast with the transparent blue sky, or even with the fleecy grey clouds above, he multiplies his gables as far as he can consistently do so, and exhibits them where they will be most seen, raises up his chimney shafts in irregular groups, and delights to diversify them by a few turrets and pinnacles, &c., so as to give as much variety and lightness as possible to the outline of his structures. Next, he pays great attention to the minutiæ of his façades—inserting bold shadow, casting string courses therein, and giving as deep base mouldings, as many window mullions, quoins, and other details in stone, as the sum placed at his disposal will allow of. Still, however, he will find that he has left here and there too large masses of a stubborn and unrelieved hue; upon these, therefore, he throws reticulated figures in black bricks, as a means both of toning down their fire and of breaking up their too great uniformity; whilst the time is probably not distant when he will be able still further to diversify these, by the occasional introduction of other

coloured bricks, in addition to the yellow ones already at his command.*

And now let us see how these principles may be best applied in the erection of brick churches. Such a title is not promising, but in many cases it is a necessity. We will suppose, therefore, that stone not being obtainable, brick has been fixed upon as the material wherewith to build a church. Well, the architect need not despair—I do not think Mr. Scott would; I am sure Mr. Street would not. First, he will say, let the bricks be of good quality; and give me, if possible, a little stone, or at least some black bricks, for with these a fabric may be raised capable, most certainly, of commanding respect, and, perhaps, high admiration. The brick churches we know of, except that of All Saints', Margaret Street, London, with its fine tower and lofty broach spire, are probably shivering specimens, with thin, smooth walls, unsupported by base mouldings or buttresses, pierced with mean domestic sash windows, and spanned by a consonant scanty roof, broken only by a shabby cupola bell-cot. Hence, brick is now esteemed to be a mean building material, viz.—because it has been ordinarily so meanly applied; yet the northern portions of Germany, Holland, the south of France, and Italy, all abound with beautiful specimens of ecclesiastical brickwork—so beautiful, indeed, that were we put to our election we would not have them transformed into stone. Lubeck, for instance, possesses some stately specimens well worthy of attention; whilst, besides many existent churches of Holland, a semicircular terra cotta tympanum of the now submerged Egmont Abbey, preserved in the Amsterdam Museum, speaks of the highly ornamental character of that interesting edifice of the twelfth century, and of the pains formerly bestowed upon moulded brick. It represents S. Peter in pontificals, before whom kneel two persons, supposed to be a Count and Countess of Egmont, the founders of the abbey, all in high relief, and cast in one piece. In that portion of Languedoc where there is no stone, as might be expected, many brick churches are to be found, as well as other edifices, especially in Toulouse, of which S. Servin (of the twelfth century) is a beautiful example; whilst the very picturesque brick bell-cot, for five bells, of Notre Dame la Bonne, Agen, which is engraved in the "Mediæval Architecture of the south of France," by J. H. Parker, in volume iii. of the Archæologia, is an excellent model for such a feature, its outline being much aided by well proportioned breaks, and its surface varied by the supporting piers, &c.

* At Boos, near Rouen, is an octagonal stone pigeon-house, of the beginning of the sixteenth century, beautifully decorated with coloured brick panels and glazed tiles, which is delineated and described by the Rev. J. L. Petit, in the Archæological Journal, vol. ix. p. 15. This is well calculated to give some useful hints as to the future disposition of coloured bricks in panels.

But northern Italy offers us the most numerous and most valuable lessons as to the use of brick in church architecture, especially with regard to details, many of which are celebrated for their surpassing beauty. Of towers, we may mention that of the Palazzo dei Signori, at Verona, three hundred feet high, built of mixed courses of stone and brick below, but wholly of brick above; of S. Andrea, at Mantua; of Santa Maria del Carmine, at Pavia; and the Torrazzo of Cremona Cathedral, four hundred feet high—all most imposing structures, divided into stages by arcaded string-courses, having flat pilasters running up their angles, and windows filled with excellent plate tracery in their upper portions. Of circular and pointed arches, formed of mixed brick and stone, Verona possesses some very valuable specimens, also of brick arcading. Of doorways, the western one of Cremona Cathedral may be studied with much benefit; also that of the Broletto, at Brescia. But, perhaps, windows are the peculiar forte of Italian brick architecture. We have only to look at Mr. G. E. Street's beautiful representation of one of the six upper windows of the ducal palace at Mantua, built in 1302, and almost entirely composed of brick, to acknowledge this; or at some in S. Andrea's, Mantua; the cathedral, Cremona; the south end of that at Verona, or at Monza, consisting either of two or three light windows within a single pointed arch, whose tympanum is decorated with beautifully cusped ornamental perforations; the whole being often relieved by a slight admixture of stone, by hood mouldings, and jambs of cast brick, and by slender divisional marble shafts, or by single light windows, having stone trefoiled heads, and most delicately wrought labels and borders. Rose windows of richly moulded bricks, deeply recessed, also are by no means uncommon—such as those of Cremona Cathedral, S. Pantaleone, Pavia, and the Broletto, Brescia. With such advantages as these, well has Professor Willis said, in his "Remarks on the Architecture of the Middle Ages," that the neglect of Italian Gothic architecture is an undeserved neglect.

We do not, however, mean to assert that Italian brick churches afford complete models for our imitation; but simply that they possess some features of extraordinary beauty, which those who have to design brick structures, whether ecclesiastical or domestic, would do well to study and adopt. We have mounted no Italian Pegasus which has borne us away from the truth into an airy region of fancy, where all is roseate around us from the reflection of our own imagination, but yet is known to be unreal to everyone else; and, to prove that we are perfectly sane, before we mention the beauties of Italian ecclesiastical brick architecture, we will allude to its very common and very grievous faults.

1. It abounds in sham fronts—thorough screens or masks

(particularly observable in the west ends of churches)—which do not agree in the least with the real elevations behind them.

2. It usually throws a single flat roof over the body of churches and their aisles, without any intervening breaks.

3. Its arches are very commonly not constructional, but ornamental, whilst their supporting shafts are rarely sufficient to support them without the artificial assistance of vast bracing irons.

4. It has far too much flatness of surface, never producing good, bold buttresses, but only, at most, shallow pilasters; and often carries heavy projecting cornices round the outline of its gables, instead of confining them to its horizontal features. But, on the other hand, it possesses great breadth and repose; offers examples of the most symmetrical and pleasing windows, well worthy of the most careful study; of enriched cornices, string-courses, and details such as we have not in England, but which we should do well to borrow from the south. Thence, also, we may gather many a valuable lesson on the subject of colour; as, for instance, from the alternate courses of red brick and stone in the interiors as well as in the exteriors of S. Zenone and S. Fermo, at Verona; and from the judicious disposition of other tints, such as black and green, which we can occasionally, at least, command in this country by means of bricks, although we can seldom hope for them in marble. Nor should we neglect to keep in mind the glazed discs inserted in the Campanile of Pavia, and the terra-cotta medallions (moulded by hand) of the Ospedale Maggiore, at Milan; both these classes of ornamentation being of the greatest value in brick districts, and may in truth be called "brickwork jewellery."

And now let us pass on to the consideration of the use of bricks in the construction of dwelling-houses. First, as to street elevations; and, secondly, as to detached country residences.

A first-class Harborough shop would have you suppose that its two or three uppermost stories were supported by the very fragile foundation of glass, although we know perfectly well that a couple of mean-looking cast-iron pillars behind this screen are really doing all its work—are the domestic Atlases—the Birmingham Penates of the establishment. But, granted that this expanse of exhibitionary power is needful, it might be secured equally well by a large flat-headed arch thrown over the whole ground-floor front; and the house would gain much, as to architectural appearance, by the substitution of so natural a constructional feature. Two or three small specimens of ancient arched shop fronts still exist at Lincoln, and many fine examples in some continental towns. A variation in the size of the upper windows would be a great relief to the eye externally, and would enable them to be better adapted to the proportions of the several rooms internally. Their shape, also, would be greatly improved by

finishing them above with flat, round, or pointed arches, according to the style of architecture adopted, instead of with the horizontal brickwork now usually seen, and not unfrequently aggravated by the application of sham keystones in cement—which, after a time, begin to flake off, from their impatience at having been pressed into so ridiculous and so false a position! Next, the removal of ugly and useless parapets, and the elevation of stepped gables, such as abound in Holland, Belgium, and parts of Germany;* and the adoption of shadow-catching octagonal chimney shafts, instead of the present meaningless masses of brickwork usually erected, would substitute lightness and comeliness of outline for dull monotonous horizontal lines; whilst a feature, very common in foreign brick buildings, might be introduced with much advantage and at a very trifling cost, namely, a moulded bead at the angles of corner, or projecting, houses, instead of the sharpe crude edge now almost always seen in such a position; or, in the case of brick edifices of a superior character, a chamfered edge, set thickly with nail-head or other similar ornaments, cast in a mould, would give much effect to its angles.

Lastly, we would recommend an attack upon the flatness of surface now almost always prevalent in brick buildings. Even where space is of great value, and porches, buttresses, or other bold projections are not admissible, base-mouldings of stone, or brick, and elevation-breaks of even a few inches are of much value; and with a string-course or two of moulded bricks, or even of rubbed ones, any tradesman could possess a shop of which he might be justly proud, without having recourse to sham and unenduring ornaments of stucco, and with but little need of the painter's brush; or, should he wish to mount higher in the architectural scale, he might add an arcaded stone balcony to the windows of his first floor rooms, stone dressings, and a few medallions of moulded terra-cotta, or here and there a little reticulated work in grey bricks.

Should brick be selected as the material for the composition of a town hall, or a corn exchange, architects would do well, before the preparation of their designs, to make a trip to Weimar, where is a remarkably fine example of brickwork, of the early part of the sixteenth century. This is the *Furstenhof*, once the palace of the Mecklenburgh princes, afterwards a court house, and now occupied by the military department. Originally it occupied

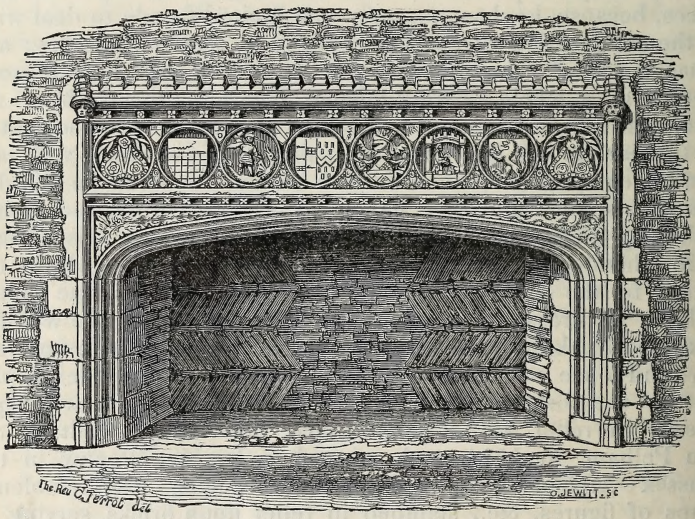
* Many parts of Kent and Suffolk afford most useful examples of brick chimney shafts, both single and in groups, quadrangular and octangular, suited either for halls or cottages, where they appear to be as thoroughly vernacular as are the stone chimneys of Northamptonshire and parts of Lincolnshire. They usually spring from bases (especially the octangular ones), have collars, and enlarged tops more or less elaborated. Several very fine specimens may be seen in the village of Hollingbourne, near Maidstone, where the old brick manor-house exists, alluded to previously in this treatise, also in other villages in that vicinity.

three sides of a quadrangle, but the central portion alone now remains. The whole façade is of brick, or terra-cotta, richly moulded in the cinque cento style of Italy, and is probably the work of an Italian artist. Its entrance archway is supported by large twin terra-cotta fauns, placed back to back on either side, in a Caryatid form: its windows, formed of round-headed lights in triplets, are adorned with other Caryatid figures, supporting friezes and cornices enriched with arabesque patterns in relief, as are also its door cases; and the whole façade is of a most elaborate character, abounding with medallion portraits and other decorations. The archway leading into the court-yard is composed of stone ribs, but the vaulting is entirely of brick. A newel staircase within this very interesting edifice is similarly vaulted, and resembles the cloisters of the old Episcopal palace at Liege, built in 1506.

More scope is permitted to the architect of country brick residences, because he has not only one limited façade to deal with, but the composition of edifices exposed to view on all sides; and he has to consider how their various proposed features will group together as a whole. Recognising, therefore, the truth of the principles I have ventured to lay down in the commencement of this treatise, he will study the effect that light and shade will have upon his composition; he will break his sky line with the mingled hues of his roofs and their gables, as well as with varied groups of chimney-shafts, so that portions of his elevation must always be in shadow, whilst the others are responding, perhaps too vividly, to the bright glances of the sun; and if stone is not available for dressings, window and door jambs, &c., he will fall back upon brick enrichments, still very commonly seen in northern Italy, and once not uncommon in England, of which examples exist in the form of window borders consisting of arabesque patterns in relief, at Laughton Place, near Lewes, built by Sir John Pelham, in 1534, and referred to by Mr. Blaauw, in the "Sussex Archæological Collections." Signs, also emblems, groups of figures, &c., stamped in relief upon bricks, serving as panels sunk within borders, would be of great use in diversifying the plainer portions of dwelling-houses. One, of a semicircular form, and displaying the achievement of Charles V., was found in the wall of an old house in Lombard street, perhaps built by a Flemish merchant; and another, bearing the head of that monarch, was disclosed during the process of pulling down some houses in Tower-street. Others of the sixteenth century are in the museum of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, representing Scriptural subjects, such as Samson sending the foxes into the corn of the Philistines, Susanna, the four Evangelists, &c., and these could very readily be adopted again at a small cost, as also

medallions and alto-relievos moulded by hand, so as to produce the additional charm of variety, and perhaps of originality.*

In Lincolnshire, a practical example of what may be done with red bricks is always at hand in the instance of Tattershall castle, from which some new lesson is to be taught almost every time that it is visited. It has been engraved in several works with more or less want of accuracy, the difficulty having been found to be considerable of rendering with truth the pyramidal tendency of all its features, and the picturesque variation of its windows and details; but it has never previously been taken from that particular point of view so happily selected by Mr. Terrot, from one of whose admirable water-colour paintings the accompanying illustration to this treatise has been engraved, at the cost of Richard Ellison, Esq., of Sudbrooke Holme, who has most generously presented it to the Associated Societies.†



[The foregoing Paper had been previously read by the Rev. E. Trollope at a Meeting of the Lincolnshire Architectural Society, held at Horncastle in June, 1858. In addition to the pages already given (which were equally applicable to, and acceptable at,

* Ancient "Terra Cotta"—as made by the Romans—consisted usually of the following ingredients, thus proportioned:

Silica	71.45	Lime	8.14
Alumina	2.25	Soda	16.62
Protoxide of Iron ..	1.2	Magnesia, a trace.	
Ditto of Manganese	0.17		

† It is here reproduced by the courtesy of the Rev. E. Trollope, F.S.A., General Secretary of the Associated Societies.

TATTERSHALL CASTLE, LINCOLNSHIRE.

Market Harborough) Mr. Trollope gave at Horncastle a short historical sketch of Tattershall Castle, which having no connection with, and not being read at Market Harborough, is not here reprinted. He has however placed at the disposal of this Society the foregoing illustration, shewing one of the freestone chimney pieces of Tattershall, drawn by Mr. Terrot of Wispington, which, from its beauty, is an ornament to these pages.]

Mr. Trollope closed his Paper with these words:

And now, I will beg—at the close of this lecture on Bricks and Brickwork, ancient and modern—to quote two short passages from a lately published work by one of the first of modern architects, Mr. G. G. Scott, because they contain a most wholesome warning, but at the same time the highest encouragement to his brother architects, as to the use aud abuse of red bricks. He says, in his "Remarks on Secular and Domestic Architecture," page 97: "A brick building calls for the utmost exercise of the architect's skill, and will as richly reward his pains as it would severely punish his negligence;" and, in the preceding page—"Brick is the most convenient material for house building, particularly in towns, so, the more we endeavour to improve its use the better; and, I think the public are pretty sure to sympathise with the effort."

The Rev. J. M. Gresley proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Trollope for his valuable paper. In doing this, he said, there was one of the finest specimens of brick architecture in this county in Kirby Muxloe Castle, built in the reign of Edward IV.: part of the wall enclosing the grounds of Leicester Abbey was another specimen well worthy of examination: then there was also Quenby Hall, another fine specimen, which was said to have been designed by Inigo Jones, in the reign of James I. He was glad to notice that this kind of material was gradually being brought into more frequent use, as ornamental work at a trifling expense. It could thereby be introduced into even the meanest cottages by every country builder.

The motion having been seconded and unanimously adopted, the chairman called upon Mr. James Thompson to read a Paper by Mr. Vincent Wing, upon

GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE AND ENGLISH CHURCHES;

which he (Mr. Thompson) had kindly undertaken to read in the unavoidable absence of its author. Before commencing the Paper, Mr. Thompson said there were views in it which, if he heard it read, he should be obliged to controvert, though with great deference to the writer for whom he had much respect. The

object of the society was to improve architecture generally, and to enkindle an interest in those forms and remains of ancient art which were everywhere around. The present exhibition was one of their modes of doing this. They would find upon the walls some of the finest specimens of church architecture in the adjoining counties. He had observed with pleasure some drawings of fine churches by Mr. Law, and on the other side of the room designs for a college at Rawden by a gentleman formerly of Harborough, which exhibited great skill in Gothic architecture. He supposed that most present were aware that there was a great endeavour at present by this and similar societies to revive Gothic architecture, and persons might wonder why this was the case. It was because on examination of the ancient cathedrals of this land, and the ancient houses, they found principles in operation every way worthy of their admiration. These buildings not only formed beautiful pictures, but were models of excellence as to stability and the truthfulness of the principles which they embodied in their construction. It was generally supposed Gothic architecture should be confined to their churches; but a feeling was getting abroad that that should not be the case, but that it should be applied to their streets and dwellings, so that they might have in use that national style which their forefathers cultivated with so much success, and which was now so much admired by those who considered it attentively. In the Paper he was about to read that principle was controverted, as the writer thought that while it was perfectly right to use Gothic architecture in their churches, they should not extend that principle to buildings of a domestic nature. After a few more preliminary observations, Mr. Thompson proceeded to read the Paper.

On the morrow we hope to make the excursion; and in offering a few words in connection with it, we congratulate the society upon our felicitous scheme, which comprises a day of so much pleasure and interest. It may be called the festal day in the annual cycle of the proceedings: for the meeting of individuals of kindred taste to explore antiquities and visit architectural remains of past ages, imparts no ordinary measure of social gladness. And whilst it serves as a pleasing bond of fellowship, it has an influence to refine the mind and promote a patriotic attachment to the land we live in. We happily belong not to a race barren of antecedents; and Old England is rich in her relics as well as in her reminiscences.

Amongst the many objects that on these occasions enlist our interest, preeminent are the churches. Beckoning reflection on things infinite and eternal, in every scene they present themselves. And we read in them our country's history, as they lure us by their high antiquity and various dates to ramble o'er the far-gone past in mystic retrogression, linking a life of preexistence, as it were, with

the present and the hoped-for future. Our minds are transported backward as we behold their longevity and venerable grey; and, how impressive is their upward-pointing style! and how conducive to religious musing the symbolism which is interwoven with their structure!

In Leicestershire we have no cathedral, and no extensive remains of conventual churches; but there is a peculiarity to be adverted to, namely, that the number of spires to be seen in one view in this county is greater than in any other—a picturesque feature of no little value to the scenery. The steeple of Market Harborough Church furnishes one of the finest of them. As a whole, it possesses great beauty both of outline and details. The spire is of the earlier or broach kind, in which we discover the mode of its invention. Previously, as most of us are aware, small towers had been covered with stone roofs of a pyramidal form; then in planning an elongation upward the octagonal shape was introduced, connected with a square base having the corners battered more rapidly, as is the case here; and in this way the spire was developed. The broach may be said to have been in fashion during the reign of Edward I.; but the effect was found to be so pleasing that it was adhered to partially for a long time after. In this instance the angles are crocketed, a circumstance not usual with the earlier ones; and which, with the details of the tower below, would lead us to date the steeple about 1330.

From these introductory remarks and local notices, we venture to proceed to some cursory observations and suggestions relating to Gothic Architecture and English Churches.

In the shifting scenes of this world we sometimes witness the rise of a more majestic fabric on the ruins of departed grandeur; and the decline and fall of art has proved ere now but the harbinger of a vigorous resuscitation. Of this the subject before us gives striking example. That style of architecture, in which our ancient churches are built, by the failure of taste had fallen into disuse, but only to be brought again into universal favour; and it may be questioned whether in the zenith of mediæval cultivation it obtained more attention than it has excited in the present revival. Its principles had long been unknown in the face of abundant illustration; but the nineteenth century has waked up again its genius, as if refreshed with the sleep of ages, and now, as much as ever, it enchants us with its fascinating beauties. A night of gross darkness had preceded the first rise of this glorious triumph of art. At its birth the flood of devastation, which the irruptions of the Goths and northern barbarians poured upon the civilized countries of Europe, and the dark ages of raid, savage conflict, and desolating invasion, had furnished a *tabula rasa* for art to recommence upon, and had swept clear the course for the development of the Gothic style. Heralded by this mysterious preparation, it

came forth to run its career of construction and ornamentation, as distinct from any other, and as surpassing in beauty, as the sacred purposes to which it has become chiefly appropriated demanded.

In its truest types, those of the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries, its superiority and peculiar fitness induce us, though in opposition to the present prevailing sentiments, to plead for its application to none but ecclesiastical uses. Certainly it was not originally confined to churches, but the obvious reason of this has rather a contrary bearing now; and, time having in a great measure swept away the secular examples of those periods, we are unwilling to have that common, which challenges a merit almost superhuman, and which, in our country at least, association had so happily invested as sacred. It has a powerful and holy influence as *church* architecture, which would be destroyed by the assimilation of the tavern, the ball-room, and the market-house, or the caricaturing of vulgar structures. Even in its later styles, capable though it be of universal adaptation, we submit that an indiscriminate employment of Gothic work should be discountenanced. It may be quite proper to extend it in these to clerical colleges and residences; and our halls of justice, as subaltern to the legislative palace, with such edifices as suggest alliance with sacred authority, may not unaptly appear in semi-ecclesiastical garb;* but where a display of magnificence is attempted in buildings of a purely secular character, not being limited as formerly by ignorance of foreign art, we should adopt the Grecian, Italian, Elizabethan, and other styles, to mark the increased intelligence of the age, and to exhibit an appropriate variety. Out of its proper sphere, the employment of the Gothic, notwithstanding ancient precedent, is detrimental to it, and its inferiority in such case may be more than questionable. At all events, we protest against the invitations to Gothicise our streets and lanes; this would produce a surfeit, and take away the background required to give due effect to our public buildings by way of contrast. In our attachment to a style, and in our attempts to do it homage, let us not profane or overlay it. In recovering what is valuable, we must not retrograde. We would appreciate the treasures of mediæval art, but we would not be mediævalised.

If we make a sacred appropriation of this precious legacy of our forefathers, it is especially incumbent upon us to secure its integrity and freedom from debasement. It has been seductively held forth, that with the mediæval artists all was progression, and that we should follow their example by endeavouring to work into a new phase, that we may obtain improvement upon the past. But did not Gothic architecture exhaust itself in its various stages of

* This is offered merely as a suggestion—some better line of distinction may perhaps be drawn—the object being to secure from architecture its proper force in the inculcation of "Fear God. Honour the King."

introduction, maturity, and decline? Did the latter half of the fourteenth century, with all its efforts, effect advancement? Or did the fifteenth, with its extraordinary elaborations, equal the preceding periods? Certainly not. And I apprehend that the attempt to infuse new elements, and to produce a new composition that can be consistently called Gothic, and be worthy of *church* appropriation, will be equally fruitless. It is from within, rather than from without, we are of opinion, that improvement will be derived; by diving into the spirit, and mastering the principles of this matured art, not by launching into another sea. In the temple, versatility has no welcome. The roving desire for change should be held in check; novelty should be repudiated, and ancient example, or at least the spirit of it, be made the rule of design. When the call for a new style is, as at present, loud and urgent, and when a dream has diffused itself, concerning the Gothic system, which is, in truth, the Christian, (for the Byzantine is rather a derivative from classical and Oriental sources, and comparatively a failure)—that it is about to be eclipsed by the fragments from its own ruin, heterogeneously compacted with heathen as well as newly-invented forms, a decided hostility to these new-fangled views is demanded, unless they be restricted to secular undertakings. In the sacred edifices which we rear, the associations of antiquity should be rightly valued; and our incomparable Gothic, the legitimate style and offspring of the Christian church, should not be degraded, to be experimented upon with novelties and fancied improvements. The time-honoured materials furnished from her own store are inexhaustible, and all that can be desired; and the grammar of our art, so to speak should be systematized, fixed, and conformed to. Rules of combination, and of consistent ornamentation and design, are our desideratum: we are not driven to "eclectic" help; we need no accessory materials; we may proudly say, we want no new style. New words or sentences, that is to say, new combinations, may be invented as circumstances dictate, but our alphabet should be the Gothic of the Middle Ages.

Even the nomenclature, which has been commonly adopted, should not be unnecessarily abandoned. Changes in technical terms may seem to indicate principles unfixed. In ironical compliment to the unconscious pioneers of the great style of which we are treating, the name of Gothic has obtained; and for this we are inclined to make a stand against the present disposition to dispute its propriety: the term itself may appear derogatory, but its historic association is good. The five subdivisional terms, with which we have become familiarized—Norman, Semi-Norman, Early-English, Decorated, and Perpendicular,—have also with insufficient reason been objected to. To the two first but little opposition has been offered. Upon the early pointed work we may remark that our examples of the period widely differ from

their contemporaries on the continent; the latter scarcely exhibit an intermediate style between the Semi-Norman and the Decorated; the elegant grouping of lancet windows and the moulded capital, which at this stage are some of the chief marks of progress in this country, have little place abroad; this Salisbury, or lancet, style, as it has been called, is distinct in itself, and its properties and beauties, especially when it is relieved and enriched, as we find it, with our Purbeck marble, will bear comparison with any other. From a just pride, therefore, in the talent of our ancestors, and from the appropriateness of the term, we would maintain the name of Early English. The next period is characteristically called Decorated: it provided an expanded receptacle for the lustre of coloured glazing, by giving birth to and maturing the window tracery, that chief glory of the Gothic, which robes our churches in a kind of architectural embroidery, and forms the most conspicuous decoration,—to say nothing of the tabernacle-work, with its gorgeous sculpture, which was chiefly of the invention of this age, or the common use of crockets of fascinating beauty, the judicious application of which gives a transfiguration of enrichment. The perpendicular lines of the windows and panellings are the most pervading characteristic of the latest division, and this is naturally enough called Perpendicular.

As a consequence of the facilities afforded for travelling in the present day, we may expect that the novelty of the specimens of Gothic work found abroad will for a time lead to an overvaluing of them, at the expense of the more truthful productions of our own country. We proffer this hint to the practitioner. It can be fairly established, that it is in England that we get the purest examples of Christian architecture; and this fact we should not lose sight of. In many continental countries, their greater proximity to the remains of Rome and Greece, and the contamination of the Byzantine and Renaissance, led to a hybrid intermixture from which we have escaped. The simplest ideas of pillar and arch would seem to be almost all the borrowed scaffold which our mediæval artists needed for climbing the heights of finished design; and, justly appreciating the gold of the new system, which they were working out, they repudiated amalgamation: their own invention presented a sphere sufficiently extended and ample. Whilst in Greece there is little to be met with but the pillared and pedimented oblong, in the edifices of the Middle Ages there is unrestricted diversity of form and outline. The Gothic elements, moreover, are both numerous and original: spires, pinnacles, buttresses, window tracery, decorated panels, cusps and featherings, crockets and finials, tabernacle-work, moulded doorways and arches, clustered pillars, vaulting ribs,—these and many others are original, and display a fertility of conception and an endless variety, which stand in splendid contrast with the monotechnic

sameness of classical Athens and Corinth. Our forefathers acted as if they felt this; and with equal independence and good taste we should have a care to put on our own beautiful garments, free from the patch of adventitious ornament, and with jealousy to keep them pure. We do not disparage the skill and taste exhibited in other countries; but we find a stricter consistency here, and assert a necessity for careful discrimination in selecting from abroad. The soaring vaults of Amiens; the stupendous steeple of Strasburg Cathedral, which, inclusive of interruptions, was eight score and two years in building; Chartres' unrivalled spire, and those portals with a bright array of sculpture most imposing in pomp and beauty; the wondrous wheel of the western front of Strasburg, of fifty feet diameter;—these are prodigies, to which we yield the palm: and we in Britain may come short in gorgeously elaborated ornament; but, respecting the true features of ecclesiastical architecture, or the principles of developing its appropriate details, we contend that England is the best school, and that our examples are the truest offspring of the Christian Mediæval type. To describe the foreign work, words implying plagiarism have been coined for the purpose,—Greekesque, Corinthianesque, and the like; but they are not needed for ours, its originality renders unnecessary a glossary of foreign reference. We may adopt the excellencies, but must avoid the faults and incongruities of the foreign Gothic. It has been thought that the pointed arch was of Saracenic importation, and not a purely Gothic development; but a great authority has exploded the notion, and shown that it came of a natural growth of constructive ingenuity and taste, and from the skill of the mediæval builders.

The Early English has been alluded to as a style peculiar to this country. The Perpendicular is perhaps as much so. The Flamboyant, which prevailed in some parts on the continent simultaneously with the English Perpendicular, scarcely gives denomination to a style; and from its unsatisfactory effect we are disposed to ignore its peculiarities, with those of the later Burgundian, as unworthy intrusions. Hence the whole career of the pointed Gothic abroad presents an extended period of varied Decorated example only; whilst England has, in addition to a purer style, introduced a greater fundamental variety.

The eccentricities sometimes found in the German, and the incongruous composition of much of the Italian Gothic, will readily be rejected. But there is a danger of adopting a less suitable expression and character in our churches, by imitating too closely the architecture of our nearer neighbours. We cannot but admire, in themselves, the delicate, the elegant, the lofty, the immense, the elaborate specimens of construction and sculpture, for which their sacred edifices are famous: and these may ensnare

us into a general preference. But let us beware of exchanging an English for a French physiognomy. Something more than the qualities alluded to is wanted to meet the requirements of the ecclesiastical builder; architecture, with him, has a holier purpose to serve beyond the satisfaction of æsthetic appetite; its higher calling is to address the soul. Like music, it may be exquisite as a mere entertainment; but as the handmaid of devotion it rises to the sublime. In a truer subserviency to its great object, it is in the walks of sublimity that we trace its march through Britain.

To enforce these observations let us glance at our ancestors in their career of church building. Their first great epoch was marked by an unbounded enthusiasm; and this was not uncontrolled by sound judgment. In all quarters of the island Norman and Semi-Norman abbeys and cathedrals of unprecedented splendour were erected, and a correct natural taste prescribed dimensions, character, and ornament. Their unskilled minds and imperfect implements have left, in most of those earlier remains, a rudeness which is interesting, and a massive grandeur effective for inspiring the sublimest and most devout imaginations. In the interior of Hereford Cathedral the stern and venerable Norman, in a striking manner, puts on the milder charms of beauty; such is the effect of the varied, and in some cases, delicate sculpture combined with the admirable native colour of the stone. The ornament which was at that time most in favour was the zigzag. It has a glory which the continental builders failed to appreciate. The lightning coruscation, which it gives from inevitable association, produces a lustre and impressiveness peculiarly its own; it is found frequently arresting our attention by its play upon the outer portal, and, with the symbolism of the church porch, is most suitable as calling us to reverence, when we enter the material house of Him, "who dwelleth in the light which no man can approach unto." This ornament, we would suggest, by the way, has not been fully worked out. An unique application of it in a doorway to the cloisters at Norwich, and its rich and profuse employment in the palace at Durham, instil the idea that it is capable of being carried to a far greater degree of effectiveness. In the review of the chief monuments of English ecclesiastical architecture, we are struck with an imposing massiveness at the commencement, and we find a masculine character sustained throughout the series. It is to minds of no common order that we owe the many noble colonnades of Norman date, of which the nave of Durham gives a specimen. And what an awe-inspiring power has the vestibule of Peterborough! What a feast of external perspective is afforded by the many gabled projections, and the heaven-piercing spire of Salisbury, so beautiful in outline, so exact in symmetrical proportions! The western front of Wells has been aptly called "a miracle of art." Its forest of sculptured foliage enriched with an

endless museum of statuary, and out-topped with towers, the very expression of the venerable, defies comparison. Then mark the towers and contour of Lincoln! The Abbey Church of Westminster we may regard as the model and standard of the style. And we cannot forget the sublime and solemn grandeur of the "exceeding magnifical" cathedral of York. Some may object that our principal buildings are deficient in height and magnitude. The vaulting, it may be said, is carried higher on the continent; but the great mediæval principle, so well attained internally by the adoption of the transept—that of symbolizing infinity by concealing limits—is better met by a still loftier centre. In this view York possesses a more exalted grandeur than Amiens or Beauvais. Our cathedrals, excepting Chichester, have no five aisles; but in length we have the superiority. And let it be remembered that there are bounds, beyond which properties of excellence degenerate. Sobriety must temper extravagance. Loftiness and magnitude must not run wild. The aisle of ultra height suffers in perspective: its walls have their features swamped or distorted; a cramping narrowness oppresses; and its covering vault is dim from distance. An attempt to carry the exterior summit to the heavens, Babel-like, ends in confusion. To leave practicability and cost uncounted, produces a folly rather than an edifice. We see the result in a tower not finished, a mutilated façade, or a fragmentary cathedral. Strasburg, Cologne, Chartres, Beauvais, and Antwerp, all halt with their designs not carried out to completion. Our ancestors avoided these errors; and in the temples which they reared sobriety kept pace with magnificence. If for a moment we descend to minor things, where shall we find improvement upon our parochial or village spire; from the lofty and majestic Louth or Grantham to the humbler but exquisite Ketton? Time forbids us to dwell upon the subject; but who has not been moved by the silent eloquence of this English monitor? Rising out of the midst of "the peace-yard"

> "It seems to say,
> Turn from earth's joys away,
> To those that ne'er decay;
> For life is ending."

We will allude to one detail, that important element, the capital. The pointed Gothic abroad has a wearying repetition of the foliated only; but here we have the moulded and pictorial as well. In the Early English period, the treatment of foliage in capitals, as, for example, in the capitals of the retrochoir of Lincoln, has produced an ornamentation intrinsically English, wherein the graceful bend, the freedom of arrangement, and the bold conventionality required for architectural effect, are properties which entitle it to be classed amongst the highest accomplishments of the art. The culminating period in this country was signalized

by a great display of artistic invention in the window tracery, gorgeous screens, shrines, and tabernacle-work, in principle and spirit strictly of the Gothic genus, which appeared at York, Exeter, and elsewhere. We can scarcely adduce the late fan-traceried and florid chapels as true *church* Gothic; indeed, they exist rather as collegiate and palatial appendages; but in the Perpendicular naves of Canterbury and Winchester, a noble effort, struggling, as it would seem, against declension, is crowned with a success, which vies with the wonders of preceding and better ages. Especially would we name Winchester, where we have a nave of extraordinary magnificence, and in architectural excellence inferior to none. There the genius of Wykeham, it may be said, has given us a sunset of glory.

A crisis has arisen in our day wherein it is most important that the public mind should be rightly directed. There is a happy concurrence of circumstances just now: a great stir is observable in the architectural world, to cultivate to perfection the art of building; the times are marked by unparalleled exertions for the erection of churches; and in their erection there is singular unanimity in choosing the Mediæval fashion. Monuments will be reared which will tell to future generations our zeal; and it is to be wished that our judgment may prove equally commendable. The circumstances of the times, and the steady and increasing cultivation of taste in all departments of art which it is our privilege to witness, inspire us with unlimited expectations. The New Palace at Westminster we are tempted to reckon upon as the earnest of national or collective voluntary efforts in another direction, which shall eclipse even our ancient minsters. The perfect cultivation of Gothic architecture demands the realization of such efforts, and the despair of them would be calculated to drive the greatest proficients in the style to advocate employment in a more extended sphere than that afforded within the sacred limits which we have pleaded for. Our most accomplished architects are becoming equal to any undertaking; their cultivated taste, extended knowledge, and professional acumen capacitate them, by combining the excellencies of the past, rejecting faults, and superadding truthful invention, to construct cathedrals which may possibly leave our old ones in the background; though these must ever be venerable and admired, as wonders of their day and as the parents of this anticipated more glorious progeny. We trust that the country will not be long behind in furnishing full scope to their abilities; and, especially, that better means than those hitherto adopted will be devised for securing and rewarding the lucubrations and exertions of the highest genius. Why should the Church, which has ever heretofore had the chief consideration, be limited to the production of ordinary places of worship, in an age wherein the most gigantic works of construction and engi-

neering, both for sea and land, are lavished upon commerce and recreation? If a very successful design for a cathedral of transcendent grandeur were elaborated, we should hope to see it forthwith adopted for Manchester or Oxford.

In the meantime there is yet much to be done in the humbler process of church building and restoration. Not everywhere are the inhabitants alive to their duty. In some districts, such has been the neglect for two or three centuries, that places of worship, enigmatically called churches, have become so deformed that they are to be known by little more than their size and ugliness. Their original features have forsaken them. Old windows have been stuck in, and other refuse from the pulling down of private houses has been brought to patch up the Old Mother, as if no indignity were too great to offer. How lamentable a confirmation of the text have we in this monster proof that "the love of money is the root of all evil!" In some cases even godly persons, from oversight, like

"The heathen in their blindness"

"dwell hard by in their ceiled houses, whilst the house of God lies waste." Those who are gifted to discern in the appropriate "temple made with hands" a harmony with heavenly aspirations, will wish to clothe such buildings with a pleasing aspect, and to invest them with a suitable impressiveness; that the chilling and repulsive exterior being banished,

"Mild religion from above"

may seem to glow in their windows, and their features possess a spiritual fascination. They will feel, too, that these "houses of God in the land" must not be of the meanest description; but in their costliness bear a due relation to the private residences with which they are connected.

From long neglect it may have become difficult in some cases to accomplish an entire restoration; but a part may be undertaken at once. In the olden times the erection of a religious edifice was systematically executed at different periods, as opportunity permitted; and hereby the progressive dates of the building became, like the tripartite division into porch, nave, and chancel, a pleasing emblem of the progress of the church militant; the collective progress is symbolized in the one case, and the individual in the other. A progression in the styles adopted serves the same purpose in our new churches; and from porch to chancel may be had, in tasteful harmony and increasing richness, the variety from the Early English, or even Norman, to the latest Decorated.

In the symbolism, which is so essential an ingredient in our church architecture, from the elevated vane, or cross, or spire, down to the cruciform area of the pavement, our creed and principles are proclaimed and inculcated. "The stone of the wall

cries out, and the beam of the timber answers it;" and the sanctuary itself, in its goodly form and significant ornament, is vocal with instructions to the worshippers to be "living stones" established in the faith, and built up and abounding in those graces which shall make them the adornment of the spiritual temple. Thus constructural propriety and beauty going hand in hand with symbol, and "all things being done decently and in order," the outward structure is made to shadow forth the spiritual, and the material building becomes a fitting emblem of that church "which exceeds in glory;" whose commencement is on earth, but whose destiny is Heaven; whose "Beauty of Holiness" is the mantle of Divine Righteousness, and whose duration is eternal.

The Rev. B. Cave proposed, and the Rev. F. P. Johnson seconded, that the Rev. T. James and the Rev. E. Trollope be requested to explain some of the beautiful objects which adorned the room.

The Rev. T. James said that before proceeding to do this they had to thank Mr. Wing for the Paper Mr. Thompson had just read, though with the same reserve as to agreeing with it. Much as he admired the architecture of our cathedrals, he could not hope now to see buildings rise which would vie with them. He did not think the spirit of the day would spend so much money upon details which would not answer their purposes. Again, in respect to domestic architecture, he thought that in architecture, as in other things, they should not make religion a thing apart. If Gothic architecture was fit for their churches, they might use it for their houses also; just as they must not keep their religion for Sundays, but carry it out into the week day. But taking the general question, whether they looked at its beauty, its applicability to all purposes to which architecture might be turned, or its economy, he believed the Gothic or pointed style might be carried out in modern times, without going back in the character of their buildings to the middle ages. He begged to move that they thank Mr. Wing for his paper, and Mr. Thompson for reading it; but that while Gothic architecture was the style recognised in this country as the most suitable for ecclesiastical edifices, it was the opinion of the society and the meeting that it was equally well adapted for civil and domestic architecture, and that a memorial be forwarded from this meeting to Lord John Manners, expressing a hope that the projected Government offices would be erected in a style so conformable to the habits and tastes of the people. That was not very complimentary to Mr. Wing, but he believed it was the feeling of the architecturalists there assembled.

The Rev. J. H. Hill seconded the motion, which was carried.

The Rev. E. Trollope said that though the local secretary in his district for the Society of Antiquaries, he should not trouble them with a single learned word. The subject he had been invited to address them upon was a most extensive one, in fact to give a history of all nations in the world, as well as all periods in their own British history. The first nation which was represented was Egypt, of whose relics there was a very interesting collection. In this there were representations of Egyptian deities, which were found in the centre of mummies. Besides these there was the sacred beetle or scarabœus, with the round ball behind it, the typical sign of the world. There was also the preserved ibis or sacred bird, and also some remarkable proofs of the early invention of glass, in the beautiful blue glass made into beads and bracelets. It had been supposed that glass was a comparatively modern invention, but they knew now that it had been always known more or less, though not in general use. In Pompeii glass was used for the windows of the baths. There were also some modern blue glass bracelets in the case, and some cunéform bricks, such as Mr. Layard found at Nineveh. These were stamped on one end, and had one end larger than the other. There was also a specimen of the papyrus reed, from which ancient paper was made, the fruit of the palm, and one of the present robes of the Nubian women, which, it must be acknowledged, was not very extensive. In the department of British history, they began with a quern or small handmill, with which the women in old times used to grind the corn for the family, and very hard labour it must have been. This was the only object they had connected with the great Celtic people who formerly inhabited this country, and who, from their great works that remained, must have been a mighty and gigantic people. After the British came the Romans, who reduced the inhabitants of this country to miserable slavery, Rome was not very largely represented, but still enough to show what was colonial work. The objects shown would be more interesting from the fact that most of them were found at Hallaton, in the immediate neighbourhood. Among them was a most beautiful purple bottle: it was only in fragments, but if perfect it would have been a very great treasure indeed. There was some of their best red ware, their china as it might be termed, and also some coarser pottery, of which the larger vessels were used for coffins to place the ashes of the dead in. There, were, further, some specimens of the material of which the Roman pavements were made. He was sorry they had not some larger and complete specimens, as they abounded in his county, and he had copies of several, some of which were very amusing. One that he had was a picture of the incidents in a chariot-race. The next table he must not speak very highly of, for the remains there were all his

own. He thought them exceedingly valuable, for they had just come fresh from mother earth. A railway had been making in his county close to the town of Sleaford, and he heard that a great discovery had been made—that some of Cromwell's people had been buried there, and that their helmets and bayonets had been found. He went to the place, and found five or six Anglo-Saxon warriors buried with their arms upon them. The people found they had got wrong as to Cromwell's people, but they still thought the large round objects were portions of the helmets, and the little knives and spears were bayonets. The three round hollow objects were the centres of shields, and they were made very large and strong, because the Anglo-Saxon used to hold the centre of the shield in his fist, and brandishing it about, pushed it violently at his foe. The three largest pointed objects were fine specimens of spear heads. He did not think they would find better specimens than the larger one in England: part of the original ash pole still remained in it. There were also three knives without handles, and one of which was unmatchable in England, he believed, a boy's knife with the handle still remaining, and which was the first weapon of the kind that had been found in that condition. There was also a specimen of their jewellery: it looked very rude and faded now, but his audience might fancy how their own would appear if buried for centuries in the earth and then dug up. That was made of glass, and showed that the Anglo-Saxons were acquainted with methods of melting and mixing glass. The other objects connected with that period he need not allude to. Though that table of specimens was very small, it would teach them a great deal if they paid attention to it, as it would show them the character of Anglo-Saxon remains. He was sorry the Danes were not represented; though, being a kindred nation, there was some difficulty in distinguishing their relics positively from those of the Saxons. With this period he begged leave to conclude his remarks.

The Rev. T. James said he would say a few words with respect to the oriental collection. Hardly any of the objects were entitled to a place in their exhibition in an architectural or archæological point of view, but still they were very beautiful specimens viewed as works of art. They would show that though the Indians were behind us in the moral graces of civilization, they were certainly before us in many of the decorative arts. If they observed the papier mache box from Cashmere, and the spoons of the same material used for the cooling drinks of the country, they would see the extreme beauty of the ornamentation. The same thing would apply to almost every article upon that table. The patterns were extremely beautiful. There were two specimens of Delhi ware, of a composition of metal and earth, inlaid with silver. Of these the older was the more beautiful pattern, which showed

that oriental art like that of Europe was degenerating. The armour, like the chain mail formerly worn in Europe, was that of a Sikh, and was brought to England after the battle of Sobraon. The helmet was particularly beautiful, and had a guard to the nose such as the Norman helmets had. The crest was extremely elegant, and was made from the feathers of a water-bird which were very scarce and costly. There was also a sword of the Santhal tribe, which was made only to push, the arm being placed in the handle. There were also some articles of ladies' dress, and among them an immense brooch, about six inches across. The harmony of colour in many of these objects was remarkable; it was seen even in the common table-cloth, which came from Cashmere. Among the objects on the Mediæval table were some grotesque carvings of bench ends, he thought from old churches. A curious carving was that of the arms of Henry VIII., which was known to be his from the supporters, a lion and a dragon, and the garter being round the arms, which he was the first to adopt. Some pottery there was worth noticing: it was dug up out of Whittlesea-mere, and its remarkable property was its extreme lightness. There were also some very curious tiles from Pipwell Abbey, in this neighbourhood, which were almost unique; they were impressed with a stamp and coloured, and a slight glaze put on. There was a singular old key, which belonged to Mr. Trollope; and a most valuable article, a processional cross or crucifix, of the fourteenth century, such as used to be carried about in Catholic times. It was of very good workmanship, and the figure had been enamelled, as they might still see. He must also draw attention to the sword found on Naseby field, and the medal attached. They were two of the finest relics discovered on that field. The gold medal was picked up some years ago; it had the head of Fairfax on one side, and the inscription was of the very year, 1645, in which the battle was fought. It seemed to have been given to his generals, by Fairfax, as a pledge of something better. Probably the owner of this wore it on his breast, and was killed in the battle. He should be doing great injustice to the gentlemen who had sent so many valuable articles, if he did not draw attention to them. There were some beautiful drawings of the churches in Northamptonshire, by Mr. Law, of Northampton, and others by Mr. Slater, also a Northamptonshire man, representing Higham Ferrers, and other churches. Mr. Browning of Stamford, had also sent drawings of domestic buildings and churches. Mr. Goddard had sent drawings of Sutton church, as it was and as it was proposed to be restored: he might, perhaps, venture to say, that he hoped the restoration might be carried out in a more conservative spirit than appeared to be intended. He might also call attention to the photographs on the wall, many of which were prepared by Mr. Jennings, of

Market Harborough: they were admirable, and the meeting had to thank him for such a collection. There were also some photographs of articles in wood work and carving, sent by Mr. Attenborough, of London, who, having such cabinets for sale, advertized them in this way. A very large and valuable collection of coins had been placed there by Mr. Boor, of Stamford, and another not so large but very valuable, by the Rev. A. Pownall, which were quite worthy of inspection by all who had time to look at them. There were also some specimens of a little hobby of his own, some stencillings made by Mr. Lea, of Lutterworth, which he thought a very happy application of a simple art for internal decoration; they were simple deal with a stencilled pattern on them, and varnished. There were also some of Minton's encaustic tiles, and some models for Christian monuments, which might be recommended for use. He begged to congratulate the town of Harborough upon the very successful meeting they had had; he was sure that neither those who first proposed that they should come there, nor the local committee, expected to see such a collection on the walls, or such a collection on the benches. Therefore he congratulated them on this very successful meeting, and hoped it would not be the last they should have.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, moved by Mr. J. Thompson, and carried by acclamation, concluded the business of the meeting.

THE EXCURSION.

The Excursion took place on the following day, Thursday, when a party of ladies and gentlemen proceeded to inspect some of the churches, &c., in the neighbourhood, and which the Rev. T. James kindly undertook to explain, according to a programme drawn up by the Committee. The first place visited was

GREAT BOWDEN.

A short drive brought the party to this village, where the Rev. E. Griffin met them and accompanied them round the church, dedicated to S. Peter, which consists of nave, two aisles, chancel, south porch, and tower. Mr. James said the greater part of the edifice appeared to belong to the Early Decorated period. In the fifteenth century the decorated piers of the nave had been cut away, as at Market Harborough, to make room for those of a later

date. The square-headed windows, he considered, had not been altered. The tower and spire, or rather spirette, he thought exceedingly pretty. The parapet of the tower is pierced with cross-slits such as were used in fortified buildings of the middle ages. He regretted that the font was not in its proper place, and could not help wishing that the interior arrangements more perfectly corresponded with the architectural features of the church, by which much accommodation for worshippers might be gained, with an increase of beauty.

Among the things worthy of notice in this church may be mentioned a septagonal font, with a peculiar large wooden cover, Jacobean in character; on the floor is a small brass to the memory of William Woolstanton, formerly rector of the parish, who died 31st August, 1403; and in the tower are five bells.

There was, previous to the Reformation, a chantry in this church, the altar of which stood at the east end of the south aisle. —*Nichols' Gartree Hundred*, p. 475.

SUTTON BASSETT.

The chapel is small, narrow, and unimposing in outline, its bell-gable and turret being the only elements of the picturesque in its exterior. The Rev. T. James recommended that instead of being pulled down it should be carefully restored as it was, there being a great deal of beauty in it for a simple chapel. Of course the wall was out of the perpendicular, but where would they find a church of three hundred years old where this was not the case? The south and west windows were worth preserving, and the doorway was early Norman. In the north side of the chancel might be remarked a little old side window, many examples of which were to be found elsewhere, and the use of which had much puzzled architects. They were certainly not hagioscopes, as they were called, but he believed were used as means for the priests to communicate with persons outside, such as lepers, &c. These windows were never glazed, but had a wooden shutter. The pitch of the roof was good, and the use of cross tie beams in it might be remarked as effective. It was a very interesting specimen of Norman architecture which had undergone alterations in the Early English period, and he (Mr. James) should regret to see the church taken down as was proposed.

The party next proceeded to

WESTON-BY-WELLAND.

Weston-by-Welland is a village containing several picturesque houses, with mullioned windows and projecting bays. The church,

Mr. James remarked, is of the early part of the fourteenth century. The tower is fine, and in it may be seen an instance of the origin of the spire. It is remarkable that while here they have the spire just budding, at Bowden it is somewhat increasing, and at Harborough it attains its full proportions. The interior has been much mutilated. There are two large pews painted blue for the purpose of marking them as being appropriated to the use of the inhabitants of Sutton. There was a fine doorway in the north wall with engaged columns, externally, banded together. This has been blocked up and disfigured by having a hideous glazed opening inserted in the upper part of it.

The next place visited was

ASHLEY.

Here the beauty of the church, tower, and spire, excited general admiration. The Rev. T. James said that of all the churches they had yet seen this was the most beautiful, and perfect, and most of one date, that being of the fourteenth century. The tower and spire had a history if it could be gone into. There had evidently been repairs effected, and at that time the coats of arms, which were evidently of the fifteenth century, had been put up on the tower, which, considering how little was done, was rather unfair to the original founders. The stilted bases of the pillars formed a remarkable feature in this church. There were specimens on each side of the chancel of the windows seen at Sutton, which had evidently been added after the chancel was built, as the original string-course had been cut away for them. There were three sedilia, of the same date as the chancel, and which ran into the south window, the same as those at Harborough. Mr. James trusted the tower arch would be opened. The original positions of two "low side-windows," opposite each other in the chancel, were pointed out.

The new schools erecting under the direction of Mr. Scott were next visited, and with their school-house appeared to afford an excellent specimen of the way in which the ancient style of building might be adopted to suit modern requirements.

The next church visited was that of

MEDBOURNE,

dedicated to S. Giles. Of this the Rev. T. James said that its general character was that of an Early English cross church, with a double aisle on the south side, and a transept. Part of the north transept had been walled off, and converted into a school.

On the south side there appeared to have been two chantries, belonging to different families or manors, as there were sedilia and two piscinæ. In the chancel were two piscinæ, which he could not account for except by the supposition that it had probably been lengthened. In the south transept was a tomb which had been mutilated and removed; it was probably that of the founder of the chantry in which it was placed.

Mr. James Thompson (in accordance with a wish from the party that he would say a few words on the early history of Medbourne) explained that in the first instance it had probably been a station on the Roman road—the Via Devana—leading from Colchester to Chester, when this country was a remote province of Rome. The frequency of the discovery of small Roman coins by swine, in turning up the soil, had led to their being called "hog's pence." Roman tesselated pavements had also been found, and pottery of the same era.

Leaving the churchyard, some of the party visited a collection of Roman antiquities, while others examined an ancient house then in process of reparation. One of its windows was a two-light, with divisional mullion, resembling a baluster, and the ribs of the roof showed the nail-head ornament on the chamfers.* Most of the party then found their way up the hill to

HOLT,

passing by, or through, the noble avenue of trees which, as it were, connects the village with the mansion. Arrived at the summit, in front of the house, the visitors ran far away in the woods in which Rockingham castle appears to be embosomed, and the eye ranged over the field, once a forest, where king John and his courtiers were accustomed to hunt the deer and the boar.

Passing the doors of the hall, the party proceeded first to the church. It is dedicated to S. Mary, and would at first sight (Mr. James remarked) appear to be a building erected in the best times of the Perpendicular style, but immediately its details are examined, it would be found that it is throughout, a shell of a church of the fourteenth century altered very considerably in the fifteenth century, so that the old ground plan existed probably one hundred and fifty years before the insertion of the Perpendicular windows. The string-course running all round the church, and dipping under the windows is evidence of this. This is an instance in which an architect of the fifteenth century while altering a church did not spoil it. There are behind the pulpit two "squints," from which a view

* A paper descriptive of this house was afterwards read before this Society, and will appear (it is hoped, with illustrations) in the next part of these Transactions.

of the high altar could be obtained from the south transept and the nave. The pulpit itself is Jacobean in design, and a fine specimen of the carving of that period. Though not Gothic, and so in harmony with the fabric, Mr. James said it would be very undesirable to remove it. The fine monuments of the Neville family attracted much attention. That commemorating the decease of Sir Thomas Neville, who died in the year 1636, called forth the remark, that in mediæval times such figures were represented with their hands clasped reverently in prayer; here, however, that attitude was no longer preserved.

The hall was next inspected, after which all moved on to

BLASTON S. GILES,

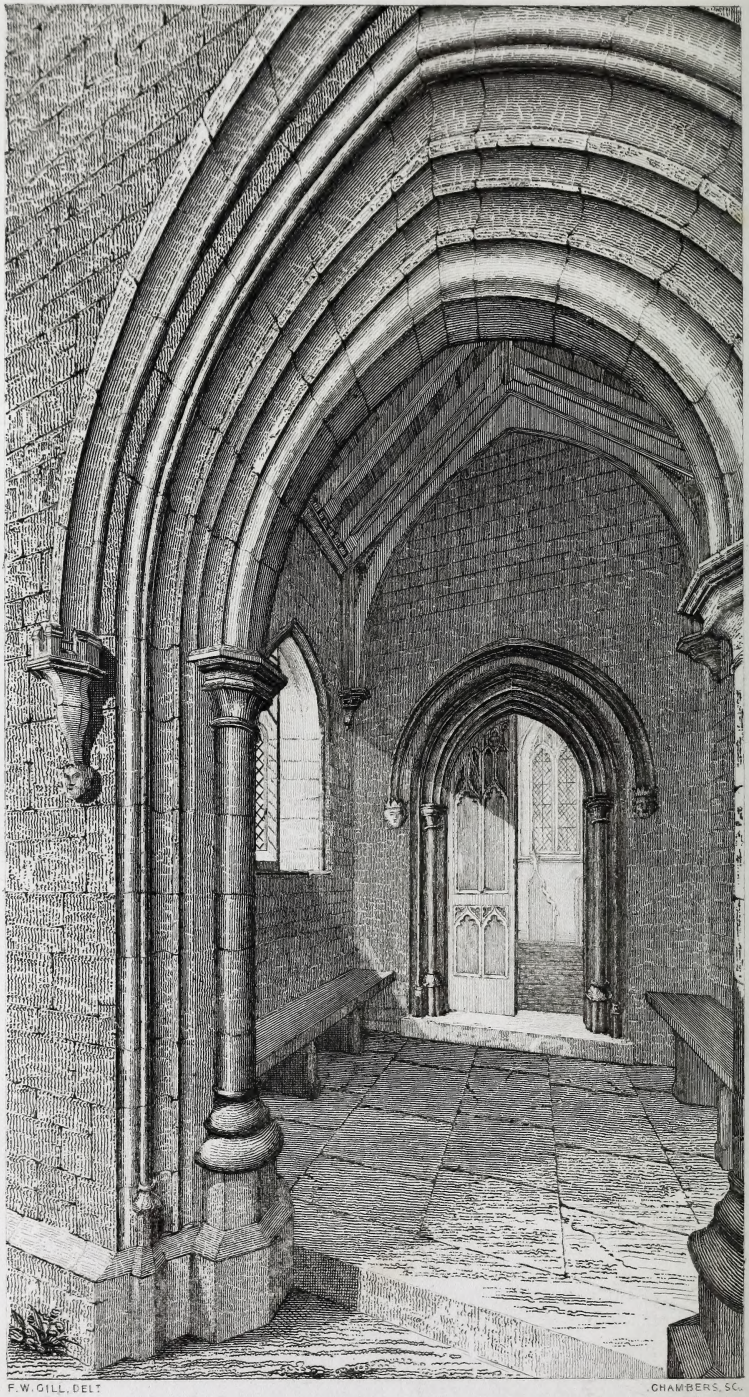
where the modern chapel, built in 1714, was inspected. This stands upon the site of a former one anciently attached to the hunting seat of king Richard I. That monarch endowed the chapel of S. Giles, in Blaston, with all the tithes of the manor.

The church of Blaston S. Michael was found to be in an exceedingly dilapidated, dirty, and dangerous condition.

From thence the next stage was

HALLATON.

Here, the whole party sat down to an excellent cold collation, provided by Mr. Peck, of the Bewicke Arms. The fine church, dedicated to S. Michael, was next visited, and gave occasion to much comment from the mixture of beauty and defect with which it is characterised. In the chancel three fine sedilia and a piscina with the dog-tooth ornament in the arches, and in a very perfect state, were much admired. The Rev. T. James observed that three distinct dates are to be found in the church. Two arches of the nave of the earliest Norman period, remain probably in their original condition. It must have been a fine church even then, as they seldom saw parish churches with such a fine span of the arches. The next date would be the chancel, tower, and spire, which are Early English, and very good in character. The tower and spire have great beauty of proportion, and are perhaps the best specimens of a parochial tower and spire they could meet with. In the fourteenth century the greatest changes were made, when the whole of the south arcade was rebuilt. The east window had evidently been repaired in the Gothic of fifty or sixty years ago. The other windows of the chancel are of very early type, the Early English just coming into the Decorated. In the modern work is built up the ancient tympanum of the Norman doorway. There seems to



F.W. GILL, DELT. CHAMBERS, SC.

View of the Interior of the Entrance Porch,
Church of St Michael and All Angels,
Grange, Leicestershire.

I. G. BLAND, ARCHT MARKET HARBOROUGH.

F.W. GILL. DEL.T CHAMBERS. SC.

Interior View of the Church of St. Michael and All Angels. Cranoe, Leicestershire.

I. G. BLAND, ARCHT MARKET HARBOROUGH.

C. W. Oliver, Publisher, Uppingham.

have been a chantry altar in the south aisle, as there are three decorated sedilia and a piscina. In the course of his remarks, Mr. James repeated what he had expressed several times during the day, respecting restoration—that it is better to leave tracery, string-courses, and corbels, though in a partially decayed condition, where they are, than to put new work in their places.

Mr. James Thompson, as there was not time to visit the encampment in the neighbourhood, gave a description of it, and stated that he believed it to be the remains of the site of an early Norman castle. Another encampment said to be Saxon, he had no doubt would prove to be Roman, as it was near their Via Devana.

The Rev. T. James called attention to some Norman tombstones, which had been found in the church, turned upside down, and which were now placed against the east end in the churchyard. The crosses are fine, and deserve to be copied.

CRANOE

was next visited. The church has been almost entirely rebuilt, in the Perpendicular style, by the exertions of the Rev. J. H. Hill, who has persevered most indefatigably in the work till it has been completed in an exceedingly satisfactory manner. The arch leading into the chancel is of fine veined Ancaster stone, and the chancel window filled with stained glass in memory of the late Earl of Cardigan and his sister. The centre piece represents the taking down from the cross, and the whole is exceedingly effective. The old font is still retained, and the head of the old chancel window is preserved in the rectory grounds.

The Rev. T. James, on the part of the clergy, and Mr. T. Ingram for the laity, congratulated the Rev. J. H. Hill on the results of his exertions.*

* Through the courtesy of the Rev. J. H. Hill, who has placed the valuable plates in the hands of the Secretary, the accompanying views of this church are permitted to adorn these pages.

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Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society.

August 30*th*, 1858.

1858

The Rev. G. E. Gillett in the chair.

The Secretary laid before the Committee a statement of the expenses incurred by the Society at the Annual Meeting held at Market Harborough on the 28th of July, which were approved and ordered to be paid. It was also resolved that the cost of the two illustrations accompanying Mr. North's Paper upon the Tradesmen's Tokens issued in Leicestershire in the seventeenth century, and Mr. Wing's description of St. Mary's Church, Melton Mowbray, published in the *Reports and Papers* of the Associated Societies for the year 1857, should be defrayed out of the Society's funds.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley exhibited a very fine brass stirrup, stated to be Roman, and read the following extracts respecting it from the *Archæologia*, vol. xxviii., p. 450:*—"The first object to which I shall call your attention is a stirrup found on Hamden Hill, near Montacute, in Somerset, now the property of Mrs. Farquharson, formerly the relict of Sir John Philips, Bart., of Montacute, by whose permission I now exhibit it to the Society; and here I must make an extract from the late Sir R. Hoare's account of antiquities found at Hamden Hill, in the twenty-first volume of the Transactions of the Society,—'A few years ago,' says he, 'singular remains were found by the labourers, who in pursuing their quarry came to a chink, or as they call it, a gully in the rock, in which were many human bones, skulls, lance and spear heads, with articles of brass and iron, together with many fragments of chariot wheels, one of which was nearly perfect.' The stirrup was found near this spot in digging at no great depth in the ground. It appears to have been cast, as the figures are similar on each

* Communicated to the Society of Antiquaries, 16th May, 1639, by the Rev. Thomas Rackett, F.R.S. and S.A.

side,—Bacchus, Silenus, and Bacchanals; and at the bottom it is to be noted one side is notched or dentated, in order to give secure footing to the sandal, while the other side is plain."

Mr. J. Thompson suggested that the stirrup might be of the Renaissance period, rather than the Roman, when classical subjects prevailed in ornamentation.

Mr. Gresley also exhibited an iron object, the property of Mrs. Farquharson, six and half inches in length by four and three-fourths in breadth, found at Langton, near Blandford, Dorsetshire, something like the "foot-irons" used by labourers to save the soles of their boots from being worn out by digging. It has not been ascertained at present for what purpose these articles were used. They are discovered in England, France, and Germany, almost always on the site of Roman buildings, or contiguous to Roman stations. They are conjectured by some antiquaries to have been used as temporary shoes for horses with tender feet; another supposition is that they were stirrups. They vary considerably in form. The one now exhibited is rather like an example in the Evreux Museum, engraved in Smith's *Collectanea Antiqua*, vol. iii.; but the rings in the Evreux example are loose, and it has no curved bit of iron at the heel. Another in Smith's *Catalogue of London Antiquities*, p. 77, has the projections at the sides meeting over the instep, and there curved into a loop.

Mr. Thompson laid before the Committee a few memoranda concerning discoveries recently made in Leicester, in excavations required in the extension of its sewerage system. He observed:—It seems that in every part relics of the Roman period (from A.D. 50 to 450) are repeatedly met with. Sometimes they are too trifling to be worthy notice; at others, they are more complete and suggestive. What is considered worthy of preservation generally finds its way to the Leicester Museum, and in that building will be found the articles about to be mentioned. The following have been brought to my notice:—Two *ollæ* or jars of black earth—one three inches, the other four inches high. One had evidently been accompanied by a lid. These had been probably used for culinary purposes—for stewing meat or boiling liquids. A vessel of red clay, covered with whitish earth, five inches high. This is a kind of *ampulla* or bottle, having a narrow neck and bulbous body. It is supposed wine was poured out of the *amphoræ*, which served the place of modern barrels, into the *ampullæ;* the latter being placed on the table of the luxurious Roman as his decanters. A bust of bronze: This is about three inches high, somewhat corroded, though the features are very easily discernible. The subject intended is a faun or young satyr. The features are of a semi-African character—the short, flat nose, and the round plump face, are obvious. This bust, I suppose, once adorned the mantelpiece or shelf of a Roman settler in Ratæ. A

bull was also shown to me. This is a piece of bronze cut out in the shape of a heart, and attached to a chain with very long narrow links. This was a trinket worn on the breast of the Roman youth, and was "given to youths of distinction, to be worn in the form of a heart, in order that, viewing them, they might think themselves men, if their hearts were rightly disposed." They were also worn as charms or amulets, probably on the supposition that they would endow their wearers with prudence and circumspection. A *stylus* of bronze was also brought for my inspection. The ancient Romans, it will be remembered, wrote on tablets having a surface of wax. The implement with which they wrote on this material was a long pin, one end of which was pointed, and the other flattened into a small fan-shaped form. With the latter they smoothened over the wax when they wished to obliterate what they had written, previous to writing upon it afresh. Our modern word "style," in reference to literary composition, is taken from this implement. "The tablet and its style," says the author of *The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon*, "was a very necessary article in the houses of educated people, for, among other purposes, it served for that of letter writing. The letter was written upon the wax, the tablet was then closed and tied with a thread and sealed, and so despatched to the person to whom it was addressed, who could rub it out and write the answer on the same tablet, which was then returned to its original owner." The latest antiquity found was an excellent specimen of the coinage of Trajan—a first bronze. Among other traces of the Roman inhabitants of Leicester which have been brought to light lately are the foundations of an extensive building lying underground near the Peacock Inn, Highcross Street. Throsby, in his *History of Leicester*, published in 1791, mentions the same remains. He states that a thick, impenetrable wall lay below made earth, at the depth of sixteen feet. It pointed north-west and south-east. A piece of pottery was here turned up twenty-six feet below the surface. Sixty-five years having elapsed since the date of the first discovery, the masonry is again uncovered, and again stirs for awhile popular curiosity. The earth is shovelled over the stones once more, and some future excavator will in his turn be perplexed by the buried foundations. That the walls were those of a large building is certain, and the presence of scattered tesseræ among the rubbish shows there were paved floors in its rooms. I have also to lay before the Committee to-day, a relic of the middle ages. It was lately found in the Abbey Gardens, near Leicester, and was first shown to me by Mr. Thomas Warner. It is a leaden seal or bull, which was formerly attached to a papal letter or grant. On one side, which may be called the obverse, is the name of Innocent the Fourth; on the reverse are the heads of S. Paul and S. Peter, with the initial letters S.PA. S.PE. above them. Between the heads an aperture appears to have passed,

through which the cord attaching the seal to the grant was drawn and fastened. I find, on referring to Nichols's *History of the County*, that Pope Innocent the Fourth not only confirmed the privileges granted by his predecessor to the Abbot and Convent of Leicester, but added others to the number they already enjoyed—sanctuary for felons, for example. This seal or bull is unquestionably that which was appended to the document here mentioned, and has probably been in the fingers of the Pontiff himself. Innocent the Fourth filled the papal chair from the 28th or 29th of June, 1243, to December 7th, 1254. It is worthy of notice that the papal seal of Innocent's successor, Alexander the Fourth, was also found in the ground near the Abbey, and is engraved in Nichols's History. I am glad to learn it is Mr. Warner's intention to retain in future all articles of antiquarian interest that may be found in the Abbey Gardens, with a view to their collection in a private museum. Being on the spot, they will be carefully preserved in an appropriate position. I may add that the term "bull," applied to papal missives, is derived from seals of lead, or *bullæ*, like that now exhibited.

Mr. Thompson's remarks were illustrated by drawings of the three vessels mentioned at the commencement of his Paper.

Mr. Gresley read the following Paper on

AN ANCIENT HOUSE AT MEDBOURNE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

It will be remembered that during the Annual Excursion of the Society on the 29th of July, having a short time to spare at Medbourne, we were invited by Mr. Fenwick to look at some old arches in a farm house a few hundred yards south of the Church. Our pleasure and surprise were great on finding immediately that it was a house of the latter part of the thirteenth century, and our visit was the more fortunate as the spirit of "progress," so destructive of the happiness of the antiquary, was already at work about it under the plea of improvement. The few observations I now wish to make respecting this house are the result of the hasty glimpse we had of it that day, and they receive much illustration from the sketches now laid before us by Mr. Bellairs and Mr. Hill, but the place requires and deserves a much more minute examination. The house may be described generally as being in the shape of a T, the upper part of the letter being as I conceive, the original mansion, to which the lower part has been subsequently added. The present entrance passage to the house runs across between these two parts, and in it, in the wall of the upper part of the T, are the dripstones of three pointed arches shown in Mr. Bellairs' drawing. This I imagine to have been the entrance to

the lower apartment or apartments of the house. The entrance to the old Deanery, Winchester, of about the same date as this house at Medbourne, is of a somewhat similar character (Turner's *Domestic Architecture*, vol. i., p. 177). Further on near the end, this passage was lighted by a small, narrow, square-headed window, widely splayed internally, and very remarkable from its still having a wooden shutter instead of being glazed. The hinges of this shutter were at the top of the window, so that it opened upwards, and was then held in its place by a button fastened to the roof of the passage. Projecting from the south side of the house is a massive old chimney of several stages, which contained the fire-place of the lower room on the ground floor, and of the large upper room, solar, or hall, which was the apartment ordinarily occupied by the master of the house and his family. The entrance from without to this upper room I conceive to have been in accordance with a frequent arrangement of houses of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, in the south wall near the chimney. If so, it was approached by an external staircase, probably of wood. This has now disappeared, but the masonry of the face of that part of the wall shows indications of its having been disturbed The solar has, of course, been long since divided, and the original high-pitched roof of it cut off by a floor and formed into attics or cheese rooms. Two arched timbers of the roof have on the chamfer on one edge of them nail-head ornaments, or rather, the nail-heads are formed simply by bits of the beam being left, instead of the whole being chamfered off. At the east end of this apartment there remained one of the original windows. Previously to the present alterations this window was quite concealed internally by plaster, etc., and a modern kitchen chimney was built up against it externally. When we were there, this chimney had just been pulled down, and one of our members climbed up and poked out the sut which nearly filled up the stonework. This window consisted of two pointed lights, separated by an octagonal mullion with a moulded capital. The morning after our visit the gable and window fell to the ground. The small window with a shutter has also since been, at least partially, destroyed. All the other windows, excepting a second small one near the one with the shutter, appear to have been inserted in the seventeenth century, when perhaps the part projecting north from the original mansion was built. We did what we could to persuade the tenant of the house to preserve some of its ancient features; for instance, not to cut away smooth with the passage wall, in order to its being papered, the three old dripstones. I ought to add, that it was suggested to me by Mr. James, when we were at Medbourne, that the north projection of the house might have been the hall, and that the arches now in the entrance-passage were the door of the kitchen and buttery hatches. Such an arrangement exists in the remains of a house of the four-

teenth century at Norborough, Northamptonshire. (See Turner, vol. ii., pp. 252-7.) From the ancient records quoted by Nichols, (Gartree Hundred, pp. 711-4,) it appears that in 1266, Henry the Third granted to John de Kirkeby and Thomas de Chaworth the privilege of a market and fair to be held in *their* manor of Medbourne. Chaworth held his manor here under the lords of Belvoir. In 1278, Amicia de Gorham died seised of 47s. 9d. yearly rent at Medbourne, with the advowson of the Church held under the king: this was as parcel of the royal manor of Burgedone, who also held land of Sir Thomas de Chaworth; and one messuage and three bovates of land of Sir John Burnebe. In 1290, John de Kirkby, her heir, lord of Holt, held the same of the king; and also land and *a capital messuage* of Thomas de Cadurcis, *i e.*, I suppose, Chaworth. In 1302, William de Kirkby died seised of the king's land, &c., here; and of a certain manor held of Thomas de Chaworth. The former of his possessions was divided among his four daughters, co-heiresses, and passed to their descendants: the Belvoir manor continued in the Chaworths certainly as late as 1483. Now as the Kirkebys were lords of Holt, and probably resided there, I am inclined to think that the old house at Medbourne, still called "The Manor House," is the identical "capital messuage" of Thomas de Chaworth, mentioned as existing in 1290: a capital messuage, meaning of course, not an excellent house, but the mansion of the lord of the manor. The Chantry Chapel on the south side of Medbourne Church appears to have been attached to this manor. Burton 1622, says—"in a window [is] the picture of an armed man kneeling, on whose surcoat, *Azure*, two chevrons *Or;* and under the said window, an ancient monument, on whose shield is the same arms," being Chaworth's (page 189). Report speaks of subterraneous passages from the manor house to the Church, and even to Holt, which must be nearly a mile off. The same kind of thing is said of almost every old mansion and monastic ruin. It frequently originates from the remains of the sewers of such places, which were generally very capacious, often sufficiently so to be walked up or crawled along.

Mr. Goddard produced from his sketch-book a drawing of the upper part of the mullion and capital mentioned by Mr. Gresley, and remarked that that window had never been glazed. Conjectures were hazarded that this had been the chapel window: also that the whole of the south part of the house was originally a large hall. Some arrangements were made for a further examination of the place.

Mr. Thompson exhibited some admirable photographs of the Church of St. Germain L'Auxerrois, Paris, of Haddon Hall, and of Alnwick Castle.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

October 25, 1858.

THE REV. ROBERT BURNABY in the Chair.

MR. J. THOMPSON exhibited an ancient urn of black earth, lately found in Friday Street, Leicester, and now placed in the Town Museum. It is ten inches in height, and four inches in diameter where widest. It is one of many similar relics discovered since Mr. Thompson read some observations to the Society upon the subject at its previous meeting. Among them was a steel-yard, of the Roman period, which, however, was clandestinely removed from the bank of the excavation before it was taken charge of by the police officer, Hart. Mr. Thompson took the opportunity of saying how valuable to the interests of archæological research were the services of this officer, whose intelligent appreciation of all antiquities, and whose judicious attention to his duty, deserve high praise, and render it desirable that he should be employed as a guardian of the relics of ancient times so frequently turned up in our streets.

MR. G. H. NEVINSON exhibited a gold sovereign of the Commonwealth, and a Venetian zechin, one of the last pieces struck by that State; also two thin oval plates of silver, about two and a half inches long, beautifully engraved by Simon de Passe. One of them has the head of King James I., and on the reverse the royal arms with supporters, &c., and an inscription. The other represents Prince Charles, when a youth, without the moustache and pointed beard, depicted by Vandyck, but having evidently his well-known features. On the reverse of this is an equestrian figure of the prince. Below are the feathers and "Carolus Princeps," and in the margin "S. P. fecit." The family of de Passe were eminent as engravers late in the sixteenth and during the first half of the seventeenth centuries. Crispin de Passe, the elder, was a native of Utrech. When he came to England is unknown. There are portraits of Queen Elizabeth by him, and of James I. and his family. He had three sons, Crispin, William, and Simon, and a daughter, Magdalene, who all inherited his talent. Crispin died young, and executed but few engravings. William probably accompanied his father to England, where he resided the greater part of his life, and engraved his best plates, which are very numerous. His portraits are highly valuable, being chiefly of King James I. and the royal family. Simon de Passe engraved several fine portraits, the earliest dated being 1613. He was employed by the famous goldsmith and miniature-painter, Nicholas Hilliard, in decorating plates, &c., with the effigies of his illustrious patrons: and he executed a great number of silver jettons, with the figures of the kings and queens of England, and

of the royal family of James I. The two silver plates exhibited by Mr. Nevinson are excellent examples of his proficiency in the art. It is recorded that when the royalists were called upon in the great rebellion to give up their gold and silver valuables to supply the exigencies of their cause, they still retained the engraved plates and jettons by de Passe as memorials of their attachment to their sovereign and his house. Simon de Passe is said to have left England about 1630, and to have settled at Copenhagen. His sister Magdalene, like her brothers, learned the art of engraving from her father, and executed some small plates of considerable merit, as well as a few portraits and other prints.

Mr. Nevinson also exhibited an appointment, dated 1st January, 1637, and signed by Archbishop Laud, "W. Cant," of Sir John Lamb, Dr. Robinson, and others, to be commissioners for hearing complaints against the levying of ship-money. Also an order, dated 22nd July, 1678, from William Alsop, Mayor of Leicester, and others, to Francis Ward to collect a levy for building ships. He also read some portions of a document respecting the collecting of a subsidy in 1615, from the clergy in the hundred of Framland to the king, stating the reasons which compelled some of them reluctantly to decline that honour.

The Rev. J. H. Hill laid before the meeting a fine folio copy of the Roman Pontifical, printed at Venice in 1582, with numerous woodcuts representing the various ceremonies of the Church as therein directed. The elaborate tooling which cover the leather of the sides and back of the binding, and ornament the edges of the leaves, show that it had been the property of no ordinary person, and on a fly-leaf is fairly written the autograph of "Fairfax." This book had been brought to light after years of neglect in consequence of the visit of the Society to Harborough, in July last. Mr. Hill also exhibited a rubbing of a mural brass in Rotherham Church, to the memory of Robarte Swifte, esq., who died August 8th, 1561, æt. 84, and of Anne his first wife, who died June 3rd, 1539, æt. 67. They are represented in the upper portion of the brass kneeling opposite each other at faldstools, between which, in the background is represented a sort of recess with two skulls and "Respice finem;" and above this, on a scroll, "Christe is oure lyfe, & deathe is our advantage." Behind their father kneel two sons, William and Robarte; and behind their mother two daughters, Anne and Margaret. It is recorded that they "lyvyde manye yeares in this Towne of Rotherham in vertuus ffame, grett wellthe, and good woorship; They weare pytyfulle to the poore and Relevyd them lyberallye, and to theyre ffrends no les faythfulle then bountyfulle; Trulye they ffearyd God, who Plentiouslye powryd his Blessings vppon theym." The conclusion of the inscription is observable as being a prayer for the dead subsequent to the settlement of the present Prayer Book of the Church of

England,—"On whose Sowlles withe all Chrysten Sowlles Thomnipotent lorde have Marcy. Amen."

The Rev. J. M. Gresley said he had a few articles to lay before the Meeting relating to a former Leicestershire rector, afterwards

ARCHBISHOP LAUD.

A few brief notes respecting his preferments in this county occur in his diary. He says in "1608, The advowson of North Kilworth in Leicestershire given to me, April."—"1609, I changed my advowson of North Kilworth for West Tilbury in Essex, to which I was inducted Oct. 28, to be near my Lord of Rochester, Dr. Neile," who afterwards continued his friend and patron, and died Archbishop of York.—"1610, my Lord of Rochester gave me Cuchstone in Kent, May 25."—"I left Cuchstone and was inducted to Norton, Nov., by proxy." This is said to have been Norton-juxta-Twycross, in this county; but I find in Nichols that Gabriel Rosse was rector there from 1609 to 1658. It was, I should think, Norton near Feversham, in Kent, that Laud had.—"1617, I was inducted to Ibstock in Leicestershire, August 2, in my return out of Scotland," whither he had attended King James, and left Norton.—"1624, July 23, Friday, I went to lie and keep house, and preach at my livings held in commendam, Creeke, and Ibstock."—"Aug. 7, Saturday, while I was at Long Whatton with my brother, my passion by blood, and my fear of a stone in my bladder." This was William Laud's half brother, the only son of his mother by her first husband, John Robinson, clothier, of London. He became a prebendary of Westminster and archdeacon of Nottingham.—"Aug. 8, Sunday, I went and preached at my parsonage at Ibstock, and set things in order there." What Laud means by I "set things in order there," may be easily imagined,—the sweeping away of Puritanism and the restoration of ecclesiastical arrangement, and performance of divine service, such as we have witnessed so many instances of during the revival of the last quarter of a century.—"1625, March 6, I resigned the parsonage of Ibstock, which I held in commendam." Laud had then become Bishop of St. David's. Thinking that possibly some trace of Laud's incumbency at Ibstock might still be found there, I visited it last week, but the church contains nothing whatever of his time. In the registers there are no entries under the dates when he appears to have been there. The only record of him is the following, written at the foot of the page, containing entries in the year 1617,—"Johannes Pickeringe Cler p Dr. Laude; Johannes Taylor, Thomas Cramp, Gardiani." The end of 1618 also is signed by J. Pickeringe in the same way. This is all that remains at Ibstock of its rector the archbishop.

Mr. Gresley produced a letter of Laud's, and read the following observations:—Soon after the Reformation, on the 4th of June, 1561, the steeple and the roofs of St. Paul's Cathedral were consumed by a violent fire, occasioned by the negligence of a plumber, who left his pan of coals unquenched at his going to dinner. The roofs were repaired, but the steeple was not rebuilt. Nothing further seems to have been done till King James I., 1621, issued a commission under the Great Seal to inquire into its condition, and take steps for its restoration. The King and the nobility were subscribers; John King, then the Bishop, gave £100. per annum. Mountain, who succeeded King, "procured with great charge and trouble," says Heylin, "huge massive stones to be brought from Portland for the beginning of the work: but money coming slowly in, and he being a man of small activity, though of good affection, the heat of this business cooled by little and little, and so came to nothing." On Mountain's death, Bishop Laud, his successor, took up the work with his habitual vigour, and was encouraged and supported by King Charles I. Another commission was issued, and money was collected throughout the kingdom; Laud subscribed £100. per annum. In the course of eight or nine years more than £100,000. were raised, of which upwards of £10,000. were given by the King "The Puritan Ministers," however, says Heylin, "and their adherents, inveighed against it, as the repairing and adorning of *a rotten relique*, insinuating to the people, as they found occasion, that it was more agreeable to the rules of piety to demolish such monuments of superstition and idolatry than to keep them standing." In 1640 the work was rapidly approaching its completion: but then came the Great Rebellion. "As this Bishop fell," continues Heylin, "the work fell with him, which clearly shows upon what wheel the whole engine moved, whose soul it was which gave both life and motion to that great design, a work of such a vast magnificence as required a large and open heart, commensurate in some manner to the greatness of it." The letter before the meeting is one signed by Laud, when Archbishop of Canterbury, "W. Cant," expressing his thanks to Henry Lord Clifford for a subscription towards the restoration of this Cathedral.

Mr Gresley then exhibited a curious arrangement of three prints in one frame, so contrived that when standing opposite to it, only the portrait of King Charles I. can be seen; when a little on the right hand side, only Archbishop Laud; when on the left, only the Earl of Strafford. The engravings are by N. J. Visscher, a print-seller at Amsterdam, two hundred years ago. Probably this memento of those three great men was once all but venerated by some Royalist in exile.

Mr. Gresley also exhibited a small edition of Herodian, printed at Basle, which appear to have been the property of Archbishop

Laud. Upon a fly-leaf at the end is the autograph of the celebrated Bishop Gardiner, once archdeacon of Leicester:—"Liber Stephani Gardineri Angliæ Cancellarii,"—which office he held from August, 1553, to his death, November 12th, 1555. On the title-page was written "Liber Thomæ Bami (?) Olim Henrici Harveye Doctoris vtriusq' Juris que decessit Cantabrigia' mense Januarii 1584." Below this, "Liber Tho: Ellis e Coll: Jesu Oxon:" and then, "William Laude, pelle mora' vinces" (?) but this has been crossed over with ink. The binding of the book is stamped with figures of S. Katerine and S. John the Evangelist. It came into Mr. Gresley's possession at the sale of the library of Dr. Landon, Provost of Worcester College, Oxford, about twenty years ago.

As connected, perhaps, with this volume, Mr. Gresley produced an anastatic print of a book-case, one of five or six, which, until about twenty years ago, stood in the inner or eastern library of St. John's College, Oxford. This library was built by Archbishop Laud, who had been President of the College. Externally it has always been a finished and beautiful structure, but curiously enough, the internal roof, until about 1837, was of arched plaster and perfectly plain. Its only furniture consisted of the book-cases above mentioned, and of two or three others made of deal, with panels of open work like the plainer panels of the original book-cases, but with no panels containing the more elaborate devices found on some of the panels of the older or oaken book-cases. Obviously these *deal* book-cases had been made, at some time or other, to imitate those of older date. When the College, in 1837, determined to fit up the inner library, and to complete the inner roof, all these book-cases, which were evidently not originally intended for the room, were disposed of. The question is, where did these cases come from? The dexter compartment (to speak heraldically) has on three of its panels a mitre, and on one the arms of the See of Canterbury. The centre compartment has on two of its panels a mitre; on one, the arms of the See of Canterbury impaling Archbishop Laud's private arms (viz., on a chevron, between three estoiles, three crosslets patée fithcée), and on one other his crest, a Lark, *a lauda*,—an allusion to his name. The sinister compartment has on one of its panels Laud's private arms, and on three his crest. The remaining panels in each compartment are plain. Hence it is obvious that the book-cases must have been put up by Archbishop Laud, or made by the College in honour of him, or acquired by the College from his property. Now it seems unlikely that they should either have been put up by the Archbishop, or have been made by the College in honour of him. It is evident that they must have been made for a room much lower in height, and that they were only adapted to this room by most clumsy and incongruous additions. We cannot

suppose that either the Archbishop or the College could have formed so inaccurate an estimate of a room with the proportions of which they were necessarily well acquainted. It remains, therefore, that we adopt the following theory: that as it appears by the Archbishop's Will that he gave his books to the College of St. John, the cases in which they had been kept in the Archbishop's Library accompanied them; and that the College, finding them disproportioned to the room, raised them upon stands, and afterwards had sundry other cases made, more or less resembling the originals.

A silver medal, which Mr. Gresley also exhibited, is similar to the one in the Bodleian collection, engraved in Nichols' Leicestershire, vol. iv., pl. cxxi., p. 753. On the obverse is the Archbishop, wearing his square cap, and the inscription GVIL LAVD ARCHIEPISC CANTVAR X IAN, 1644, the day he was beheaded. On the reverse, above the view of London and Southwark, angels are carrying his mitre and pastoral staff heavenwards, other angels below following them with the crown, the sceptre, and the globe; and the inscription, SANCTI CAROLI PRÆCVRSOR.* This medal was probably struck after the restoration of the Church and Monarchy. "Various opinions," said Mr. Gresley, "there ever will be respecting the Archbishop, until the Judgment day, but they may be readily reduced to two. The one is that of certain heroes at the anti-confessional meeting at St. James' Hall, on Monday last, and their admirers—'that traitor Laud' and 'the soul-debasing superstitions which he maintained.' The second, that of others, at least equally distinguished and religious, and of myself,—'our great Archbishop and martyr, to whom, perchance we owe it, that we who now live, are still members of a branch of the Church Catholic. As it is written near the grave of Sir Christopher Wren, the rebuilder of that material fabric which Laud loved—*Lector, si monumentum quæris, circumspice*, so it has been truly said of the Archbishop, *his monument is the present English Church.*"

G. H. Fisher, Esq., of Harborough, J. Phillips, Esq., of Kibworth, and T. Heygate, Esq., of Harborough, were elected members of the society, and the Rev. J. H. Hill a member of the Committee.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Several Members of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society, residing in Melton Mowbray, being desirous to avail themselves of any help they could obtain from its Members in elucidating the past history of their town, determined to hold a series of public evening meetings, at which papers of local

interest should be read, followed by any remarks or discussion which might arise therefrom. In pursuance of this wish, three public meetings were held in the Corn Exchange, Melton Mowbray, at which the three following papers were read:—

MELTON MOWBRAY, *November* 15*th*, 1858.

THE REV. W. M. COLLES in the chair.

The Mowbrays, Lords of Melton.

BY MR. THOMAS NORTH.

PART I.

IT will be remembered by all conversant with the early history of Melton Mowbray, that at the Conquest, that lordship (in addition to twenty-six others in Leicestershire) was bestowed upen Geoffrey de Wirce, one of the many hardy warriors who were induced, partly by the love of war and partly by the hope of gaining the fair lands of a conquered country, to join William of Normandy in his expedition against England.*

Among the other companions of William the Conqueror was Roger de Albini, or Aubigni, a native of Aubigni in Normandy, whose wife was Amicia de Mowbray. He had two sons, William and Nigel. The elder of these was the Grand Butler of the Conqueror, and the founder of the families of the Earls of Arundel and Sussex of that name. The younger son, Nigel, succeeded to the whole possessions of Geoffrey de Wirce, including the manor of

* Respecting Geoffrey de Wirce, Dugdale, in his *Antiquities of Warwickshire, Illustrated* (edition 1765), makes the following remarks (page 53):—

"This place (Monkskirby) . . . . . as also great possessions in the counties of *Northampton*, *Leicester*, *Nottingham*, and *Lincoln*, were in the generall distribution made by *William* the *Conqueror* amongst his Friends and Followers, given to one *Geffrey Wirce* of *Little Britanny* in *France*, and of the Family assuming that name from the Territory there called *Guerche*, adjoining to *Anjou;* who then came into *England*, and assisted in the Conquest thereof, and probably, with *Aland Fergant*, eldest son to the Duke of *Brittany:* For it appears by the Testimony of a good Historian, that divers Persons of Quality in that Province, whereof he names some, accompanied him: As also that a third Part of the Conqueror's army was commanded by the same *Alan*, who had the Earldome of Richmund given him as a Reward for his service."

After mentioning the foundation, by Geoffrey, of the Monastery at Kirby, Dugdale continues:

"Howbeit of the said Geffrey Wirce have I not seen anything else memorable; nor do I find that he had any children; so that I most incline to believe that, dying without issue, his Possessions in *England* returned to the Crown; for all in this and the before cited counties came to the Hands of *Nigel de Albini*, Progenitor to the Mowbrays, by the Grant of King Henry I., whose possessions in this shire by that means, and by marriage with *Segrave's* Daughter and Heir, were of no small extent."

Pedigree to illustrate Mr. North's first and second Papers upon "The Mowbrays, Lords of Melton."

- MOWBRAY = ...
  - ROGER DE MOWBRAY = ...
    - ROBERT DE MOWBRAY, Earl of Northumberland. = MAUD dau. of Richard de Aquila.
  - AMICIA = ROGER DE ALBINI.
    - WILLIAM DE ALBINI PINCERNA.
    - MAUD, wife of Robert de Mowbray (no issue). = NIGEL DE ALBINI = GUNDREDA, dau. of Gerald de Gornay, 2nd wife, married 1118.
      - ROGER, who by command of Henry I. took the name of Mowbray, went twice to the Holy Land, living in 1184. = ALICE DE GAUNT.
        - NIGEL DE MOWBRAY, died on ship-board, 3 Richard I. = MABEL, dau. of . . . . Earl of Clare.
          - WILLIAM DE MOWBRAY, one of the celebrated 25 Barons, appointed to enforce the observance of Magna Charta: died 1222. = AGNES, dau. of the Earl of Arundel.
            - NIGEL DE MOWBRAY, died 13 Hen. III. (No issue.) = MAUD, dau. and heir of Roger de Camville.
            - ROGER DE MOWBRAY, died 1266. = MAUD, dau. of William de Beauchamp of Bedford.
              - ROGER DE MOWBRAY, died at Ghent, 1298. = ROSE, dau. of Richard Earl of Clare and Gloucester.
                - JOHN DE MOWBRAY, executed at York, 1322. = ALIVA, daughter and co-heir of William de Brewes, Lord of Gower.
          - ROBERT.
          - PHILIP.
          - ROGER.
        - ROGER DE MOWBRAY.
      - HAMO, progenitor of the Belers of Kirby, and Eye Kettleby.
  - GEOFFREY Bp. of Coutances.

LORDS OF MELTON.

I. GEOFFREY DE WIRCE.

II. NIGEL DE ALBINI.

III. ROGER DE MOWBRAY.

IV. NIGEL DE MOWBRAY.

V. WILLIAM DE MOWBRAY.

VI. NIGEL DE MOWBRAY.

VII. ROGER DE MOWBRAY.

VIII. ROGER DE MOWBRAY.

IX. JOHN DE MOWBRAY.

T. N., NOV., 1858.

Melton, but under what circumstances is wrapt in obscurity. This Nigel was Bow Bearer (an office connected with the King's forests) to William Rufus, and was girt with the sword of knighthood by Henry I., with whom he was a great favourite. Both he and his brother William adhered to that King in prosperity and adversity, disdaining (says the annalist) the distinctions to be acquired by treason and perjury.* Nigel, on many occasions, rendered good service to Henry, especially in his last encounter with his brother Robert in Normandy, where Albini, slaying the horse upon which Curthose was mounted, brought its rider a prisoner to the king of England.† For which display of courage and fidelity he was rewarded by the king with the Barony of Stutevill, the lands of Baron Fronteboef, who had forfeited the same by his adherence to the cause of the Duke of Normandy against his rapacious and cruel brother.‡ And for further eminent services rendered to Henry I. in Normandy, Nigel de Albini had also bestowed upon him by that monarch, all the lands, both in England and Normandy, of Robert de Molbray, or Mowbray, Earl of Northumberland, together with all his castles, which the Earl had forfeited by his conspiracies against the government of William Rufus.§

As this grant was the cause of Nigel's descendants assuming the name of Mowbray, perhaps I may be allowed to digress for a few moments in order to shew in what manner the family of Mowbray became possessed of such large estates in England.‖

It is a fact familiar to all readers of English history, that when William the Conqueror landed in England, he had in his army very many priests, monks, and bishops, indeed, ecclesiastics apparently of every rank and degree. Previous to the memorable battle of Hastings, whilst the English were spending the night in revelry, and in singing the war-songs of their ancestors, these Norman churchmen were praying for the blessing of heaven upon the arms of their countrymen in the coming conflict, and were

* Ordericus Vitalis, vol. iii., p. 474, Bohn's edition.

† Cottonian MS. quoted by Dugdale, Mon. Ang., vol. vi., p. 320. Some of the Chroniclers do not agree with this statement.

‡ Nigel was also in Normandy with Henry at the battle of Noyon in 1119.—Ord. Vit. vol. iii., p. 482.

§ Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 122.

‖ The Rev. W. Monkhouse, F.S.A., in a Paper read before the Bedfordshire Archæological Society "on the Ethnography of the County of Bedford," makes the following remarks upon the name "Albini:"

". . . . . Perhaps the most remarkable corruption of a name is one to which my attention has been lately drawn, viz., that of *Albini*—on the great head and founder of which name the Conqueror had conferred no less than twelve manors in the county for his military services. The family were settled in Cainhoe castle; and in the registers of the adjoining parishes I have found the name written *Alboni* and *Allibone*, in the early part of Queen Elizabeth's reign. But in the case I am alluding to, the representative of the great Nigel appears under the alias of Thomas *Allbones*, who was fined five shillings by the magistrates for being drunk and disorderly in the streets of Biggleswade!"

receiving confession and performing the office of the mass in order that none might be unprepared to fall in the battle into which the morning's light was to plunge them.* There was, however, a man in the Norman army, who having been consecrated a bishop of the Church, not only continued to take a great interest in secular affairs, but played a conspicuous part in the military operations then being carried on. He plumed himself much upon his noble birth; and the excitement of the soldier's camp, and the pageantry of war, had more attractions for him than the quiet of the cloister, and his episcopal duties. "He was more distinguished for military, than for clerical ability; better able to array armed soldiers for battle, than to teach cowled clerks in the chants of the Church." This warrior was Geoffrey de Mowbray, bishop of Coutances, in Normandy.† After the battle of Hastings he was "often engaged in the conflicts against the English and Danes," and when the opponents of William were subdued, he obtained two hundred and eighty manors in England, as his share of the plunder, and as a reward for what appear to us, his anomalous proceedings. At his death, which occurred 2nd February, 1093, his lands passed into the hands of Robert de Mowbray, his nephew.‡

This Robert de Mowbray was the son of a Roger de Mowbray, who came over with the Conqueror§—a brother, if I mistake not, of the bishop, and of Amicia, the wife of Roger de Albini. Robert, according to the chroniclers, was a person "of great stature, size, and strength; of a dark complexion, and covered with hair; his disposition bold and crafty; his features melancholy and harsh. He reflected more than he talked, and scarcely ever smiled when he was speaking."|| During one of the predatory excursions made into Northumberland by Malcolm, king of Scotland, in the reign of William Rufus, this Robert de Mowbray placed himself in ambush, awaiting his return; when, falling upon the Scotch king and his followers, Malcolm and his son Edward were both slain. This victory appears to have inspired Robert de Mowbray with pride, and to have led him (against the king's will) to fortify certain castles, which caused his royal master to suspect his fidelity, and to send him a message requesting him in a peremptory manner to desist from his proceedings, and to repair to his presence. This, the earl neglecting to do, king William sent his brother Henry to spoil Northumberland, and following himself, took the Earl prisoner, and placed him in confinement in Windsor Castle, where he afterwards died.¶ His lands being forfeited, in

* Thierry's Conquest of England, p. 68.

† That he was a Mowbray, see Notes and Queries, second series, vol. vi., p. 53.

‡ Ord. Vit., vol. iii., p. 17, 18. § Dugdale's Bar. vol. i., p. 57.

|| Ord. Vit., vol. iii., p. 17.

¶ Speed. Matt., Paris, vol. iii., p. 476, Bohn's ed.; Matt. West., vol. ii., p. 20, Bohn's ed.; Hoveden, vol. i., p. 177, Bohn's ed.; Florence of Worcester, p. 201, Bohn's ed.

consequence of this rebellion, were bestowed as already mentioned, upon his cousin Nigel de Albini, the lord of Melton.

I may here remark that the Mowbrays derived their name from the village of Moubrai, in the canton of Perci, and arrondissement of St. Lo in Normandy, and which was identical with the ancient Norman barony of Mowbray called by Ordericus Vitalis, *Molbraium*.*

Nigel de Albini, who being thus possessed of the estates of Geoffrey de Wirce, Robert de Mowbray, and the barony of Stutevill, in addition to former grants direct from the Conqueror, became a most powerful and wealthy personage,† married for his first wife, Maud, daughter of Richard de Aquila, and wife of his cousin Robert de Mowbray, whose vast possessions, as we have just noticed, had been bestowed upon him. He appears to have wedded her, by permission of Pope Pascal II., during the lifetime of her first husband, and whilst he was, as stated before, lying a prisoner in Windsor Castle.‡ He, however (either tiring of her, or his conscience being suddenly awakened to the sin of living with his kinsman's wife), obtained a divorce, and in June, 1118, married (by advice of Henry I.) Gundreda, daughter of Gerald de Gornay.§ After founding or making grants to various religious houses, this, the second lord of Melton after the Conquest, at the close of his life, is said to have entered the Monastery of Bec in Normandy, to which he had given lands in Dunton, Leicestershire, and to have died at a very advanced age at Rouen.‖

Nigel de Albini (who was not distinguished by the purity of his morals, as one of his concubines figures in Domesday Book) left by his wife Gundreda, having had no issue by Maud, his first wife, two sons, Roger and Hamo; the first of these, by express command of Henry I., took the name of Mowbray, because he inherited the lands of Mowbray through his father as before stated; the second, Hamo, was the progenitor of the Belers.

Roger de Mowbray, who succeeded his father as possessor of

* M. A. Lower, Esq.

† He possessed one hundred and twenty knight's fees in Normandy, and as many in England.—*Dugdale's Bar.*, vol. i., p. 122.

‡ "Matilda his (Robert de Mowbray's) wife, who had never enjoyed happiness with him, because their union was contracted at the very moment of the insurrection, and she had been led to the nuptial couch only three months before, trembling amid the clash of arms, was soon deprived of the consolations of marriage and long exposed to deep suffering. Her husband, as we have said, lived in prison, and during his life she could not, according to the law of God, marry again. At length, by license from Pope Paschal, before whom the case was laid by learned persons, after a long period, Nigel d'Aubigni took her to wife, and for some time treated her with respect out of regard to her noble parents: but on the death of Gilbert de Laigle, her brother, Nigel craftily sought a ground of divorce, and repudiated her because she had been his cousin's wife, and he then married Gundreda, sister of Hugh de Gournai."—*Ord. Vit.*, vol. iii., p. 20.

§ Her mother was Edith, sister of William de Warrenne, first Earl of Surrey. Both Gundreda and his first wife, Maud, survived Nigel.—*Ord. Vit.*, vol. iii., p. 21.

‖ Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 122.

the lordship of Melton, now "called Mowbray from the lords thereof," was then a minor under the guardianship of King Stephen. He was a firm adherent of that monarch during his troublous reign, being one of the chief commanders in the memorable battle against the Scots, known as the Battle of the Standard, in 1138, though he was then still under age. And again at the Battle of Lincoln two years later, when Stephen surrounded by his enemies—after shattering his battle-axe, and then defending himself with his sword until that too failed him, and only the hilt remained in his hand—was taken prisoner, Roger de Mowbray shared the fate of his sovereign. Stephen, and with him the lord of Melton, soon regained their liberty, the former to enjoy a short respite from war and those civil dissensions which usually attend the wake of an usurper; the latter, a few years afterwards, in 1148, to follow the standard of Louis VII. into the Holy Land, and there to draw his sword in what was then considered the holiest of causes, the cause of heaven,—a crusade for the relief of the distressed Christians in the East, and the purging of the Holy Sepulchre from the defiling presence of the infidel. The zealous and saintly Bernard, the last of the Fathers, had (when his strength was failing, and he was calmly awaiting his dissolution) at the command of Pope Eugenius III., become the preacher of the Second Crusade; and not only all France, but nearly all Europe, succumbed to his eloquence, his piety, and the supposed sacredness of the cause he advocated, and sent the best, the noblest, the most valiant of their sons to fight under the banner of the Cross.

Previous to his departure to the Holy Land, Roger de Mowbray founded the Abbey of Byland in Yorkshire, and executed a deed of gift to the Abbey of Garendon in this county, wherein he finally yields to that church whatever Gundreda his mother gave of her lands, and in return begs that he may have an interest in the prayers of the abbot and his convent while he should be in that journey; and moreover promises, when he shall return, to grant most freely whatever, in reason, they shall demand of him.* Upon reaching the Holy Land, he, "to his immortal honour overcame a stout and hardy pagan in single combat;"† and soon being attracted by the valour and devotion of the Knights Templars, he became one of their greatest benefactors. Upon his return he founded at Balshall, in Warwickshire, a preceptory for that fraternity, to whom he gave all his lands in that town, with various manors elsewhere, and was otherwise so munificent, that they in return gave him, and his heirs, the privilege of pardoning any Templar he or they should find under public penance, for any offence whatever, on due contrition for his fault.‡

* Nichols' History of Leicestershire: Appendix to Framland Hundred, p. 135.

† Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 122.

‡ "Both the Knights Hospitallers and Knights Templars held themselves most

Roger de Mowbray also founded, probably about this time, a hospital in honour of the Virgin Mary and S. Lazarus, for the relief of lepers and other afflicted Christians, at Burton, near Melton; hence called Burton S. Lazarus, or Lazars. He gave to this establishment two carucates* of land, a house, mills, &c., and so laid the foundation of a well-endowed hospital, consisting of a Master, and eight sound as well as several poor leprous Brethren, and which was the chief of all the Spittals or Lazar-houses in England, but dependent upon the great House at Jerusalem.† This gift was made by Roger, says his charter, "for the health of his soul, and for the souls of his father and mother, and for the souls of his ancestors," and is witnessed, in addition to others, by Nigel and Robert his sons.‡

Beyond these casual traces, we know little of Roger de Mowbray's actions from the time of the return of the French army from Palestine, in 1149, until the year 1174, when we find his sword (which with him was certainly no useless ornament, or idle appendage to his costume) again drawn, and that too, in rebellion against his sovereign. He, and other great barons, joined Henry, son of Henry II., in the attempt to deprive his father of his crown and kingdom. Roger fortified all his strongholds, and repaired his ruinous old castle at Kinardsferry, in the Isle of Axholme, Lincolnshire, but his enterprise was unsuccessful, for Geoffrey, the bishop elect of Lincoln, besieged the castle, and Roger hastening towards Leicester to obtain assistance, was detained by the country people at Clay, in Yorkshire. His castle soon fell into the hands of the bishop, who thereupon marched, and after a short siege also took the castle of Kirkby Malesard (or Malzeard),§ another of Roger's strongholds.‖

Henry II., having by his reconcilement with the court of Rome, by a series of fortuitous occurrences, and by his timely concessions to the superstitious prejudices of his subjects by his penance at the tomb of S. Thomas of Canterbury, regained his lost ground in

bound above all others their benefactors to Roger de Mowbray, to whose heirs and descendants they granted peculiar privileges."—*Dugdale's Mon. Ang.*, vol. vi., p. 799. See also Mills' History of the Crusades, vol. i., p. 360; and Dugdale's Bar., vol. i. p. 123.

* Perhaps about two hundred acres.

† Tanner, as quoted in Dugdale's Mon. Ang., vol. vi., p. 632.

‡ Nichols' Leicestershire, Appendix to Framland Hundred, p. 129. "In the twelfth year of Henry II., upon the levying an aid for the marriage of the King's daughter, Roger de Mowbray was certified to hold eighty-eight knight's fees, and a fourth part by ancient grant and eleven knight's fees, and three parts by new grant, and the amount levied upon him was sixty-eight pounds, sixteen shillings, and fourpence."—*Dugdale's Bar.*, vol. i., p. 122-3.

§ About twenty miles from York.

‖ Roger of Wendover, vol. ii., p. 27 and 30, Bohn's ed.; Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 123; Roger de Hoveden, vol. i., p. 377, Bohn's ed —Lord Lyttelton (Henry II., vol. v., p. 178) says that Mowbray, after the fall of Malesard, fled from his castle of Thirsk, where he was then staying, unto the Scotch king, to obtain his aid.

England, and established his throne upon a firmer basis than it had previously rested upon, Roger de Mowbray either sent messengers, or himself hastened to meet the king at Northampton, on the 31st July, 1174, and there delivered up his castle of Thirsk, which the king soon after caused to be pulled down.* At the same time the castles of Leicester, Mountsorrell, and Groby, were also surrendered to the king, by the constables of the Earl of Leicester.†

Roger lost less by his rebellious conduct than the circumstances appeared to warrant; for the ambitious children of Henry II., finding their cause becoming weak, and losing the support of Louis of France, were glad to effect a reconcilement with their father, who granted a free pardon to all the revolters, and the prisoners on both sides were released.

It is not improbable that Henry's long sojourns out of England, and the ill repute attached to him in consequence of the murder of Thomas à Becket, induced many to join in this insurrection, who otherwise would have been among his most staunch supporters.

That Roger de Mowbray was a great benefactor to the church is evident from the many and noble gifts he made to various religious houses. For beside those already mentioned, he founded the Abbey of Newbrough in 1155, he greatly enriched the Canons of Kenilworth in Warwickshire,‡ the Canons of Sulby, Northamptonshire, the monks of S. Mary's, York, the monks of Fountains, and several other foundations in and out of England.§

We now come to the last great act of this ancient warrior's life, —a life chequered strangely with good and evil, yet offering no mean picture of the times in which he lived, of the motives which actuated, and the passions which swayed, so many of those whom we now look back upon with mingled feelings of admiration and pity.

In the year 1184, Heraclius, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, accompanied by the Grand Master of the Hospital—the Grand Master of the Temple who formed part of the embassy, died in Italy, on the journey—arrived in England upon a mission to the King (Henry II.), requesting his presence and aid in the Holy Land against the Saracens. They brought with them the keys of the Sepulchre, of the Tower of David, and of the city of Jerusalem, which, together with the royal standard, they wished to hand to Henry as the "heir and lord of the land of Jerusalem."‖ They also were bearers of a letter addressed by Pope Lucius III. to the King,

* Roger of Wendover, vol. ii., p. 30. "The site alone remains on the south-west of the town."—*White's month in Yorkshire*, 1858.

† Roger de Hoveden, vol. i., p. 383, Bohn's ed.; and Lyttelton's Henry II., vol. v., p. 199.

‡ Among other gifts see Dugdale's Warwickshire, p. 676 (Edition 1765).

§ He is said to have built no less than thirty-five religious houses.

‖ Henry was son of Jeffery, Earl of Anjou, whose brother Fulk was King of Jerusalem.

wherein the Pope, after relating the miserable condition of the Christians in the Holy Land, concludes by reminding the King of those promises by which he had so often bound himself to do his utmost for their relief.* Henry met these illustrious persons at Reading, and after receiving their salutations and letter, appointed a time for his answer—the first Sunday in Lent, at London. Accordingly on that day, the King and all the principal men of England and Scotland met at Clerkenwell, and Henry having "formally adjured the lords to advise him that which should be most for his soul's health," it was thought fit to aid the cause with money, but not to employ the person of the King, or any of his children. The king likewise gave leave to all who chose, to take upon them the Cross, and to proceed to the succour of the Christians, and the defence of the Holy Land.†

Among those who took advantage of the encouragement given by the King to the soldiers of the cross, was Roger de Mowbray, who thus for the second time, and at an advanced age, again left his country as a champion of the church and her distressed members. Upon his arrival, however, with an immense multitude of men-at-arms and pilgrims, it was found that a truce for three years had been concluded between Saladin and the Christians; in consequence of which the greater portion of the English returned home. Roger de Mowbray and Hugh de Beauchamp did not do this, "but remained there," says the annalist, "in the service of God."‡ In the following year, Saladin, taking advantage of the disunion existing among the Christians, and disregarding the truce, entered the country and gained a complete victory over his opponents, taking Guy, king of Jerusalem, and very many of the leading men prisoners, among whom was Roger de Mowbray. Hugh de Beauchamp, his companion in arms, was slain on the field of battle, and what was called "the true Cross" fell into the hands of the Turks. Saladin after ordering the decapitation of the Knights of the Temple and of the Hospital, placed the other prisoners in confinement in order to extort considerable ransoms for their liberty. Roger de Mowbray regained his freedom by the liberality of the Knights Templars, who, remembering the great services he had rendered to them both in his person and estate, paid his ransom and obtained his release; soon after which event he died, says Hoveden,§ in those parts, and was buried at Sures.‖ Others say that wearied with war he returned to England, and after living fifteen years, died at a great age, and was buried in the Abbey of Byland, within an arch on the south side of the Chapter House,

* Roger de Hoveden, vol. ii., p. 46. Roger of Wendover, vol. ii., p. 56.

† Speed. ‡ Hoveden, vol. ii., p. 63. § Vol. ii., p. 69.

‖ Where this place is does not appear. Sures is however probably used for Syria. Capgrave, in his Chronicle, so uses it,—"surre," *vide* pp. 44 and 53.

near to the body of Gundreda, his mother, a figure of a sword being placed upon his tomb.* This latter statement is however accompanied by a description of such an improbable adventure during his journey to England that we are inclined to think Hoveden's testimony as to his death in the East to be the correct one.†

Roger de Mowbray, the third lord of Melton after the Conquest, is a fair sample of the great warrior-statesmen of his day. He was valiant and impetuous; his hand flew to his sword sometimes without his calmly reflecting upon the merits of the cause he espoused, or its probable results; according to the received opinions of his day he was pious, a true son of the church, and a great benefactor to her religious establishments;‡ and above all he was a puissant champion of Christianity against the infidels in the Holy Land. Melton has no need, therefore, to be ashamed of this her early lord, to whom she owes the appellation by which she is distinguished from other towns of a similar name, being subsequently to his decease, known as Melton Mowbray.

Roger married Alice de Gaunt, by whom he left two sons, Nigel and Roger. Nigel de Mowbray, who married Mabel, daughter of the Earl of Clare,§ succeeded his father as possessor of the manor of Melton. Many years previously we find him taking part in the stirring events of the time. He was a witness to the recognition by Henry II. of the famous Constitutions of Clarendon, and he likewise, ten years afterwards, joined his father in that rebellion against the same king, which has been already alluded to.‖

Soon after the death of Henry II., his successor Richard, having already been girt with the sword of the dukedom of Normandy, arrived in England, where he was met by the Archbishops, Bishops, Earls, Barons (among whom was Nigel de Mowbray ¶), and a vast multitude of Knights, and by their consent and advice, he was with great pomp solemnly consecrated and crowned in Westminster, as King of England.

Nigel de Mowbray appears to have inherited the liberality, as well as the wealth of his ancestors, for we find he confirmed certain grants to religious houses, formerly made by Geoffrey de Wirce, Nigel de Albini his grandfather, and Roger de Mowbray his father. In addition to which he gave to the Hospital of Burton Lazars the

* Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 123.

† "..... That in his journey, finding a fierce Dragon fighting with a Lion in a certain valley called Sarranell, he mortally wounded the Dragon; whereby he so gained the love of that king of beasts, that he followed him into England, to his castle at Hode."—*Dugdale's Bar.*, vol. i., p. 123.

‡ Dugdale, in his Antiquities of Warwickshire, p. 680, ed. 1765, says Roger, "being a very devout man, amongst his other pious works," &c.

§ According to a Cottonian MS., quoted by Dugdale (Mon., vol. vi. p. 320), this was *Edmund*, Earl of Clare, this however is not borne out by a reference to Sir H. Nicholas' Synopsis.

‖ Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 123. ¶ Ibid.

tithe of all the meat and drink consumed in his house, wheresoever he should be, with an injunction to his descendants to observe the same for the health of the souls of his father, his mother, himself, and his posterity.* He likewise was a benefactor to the Abbot and Convent of Garendon,† and to the Monks of S. Mary Overie, in Southwark, he gave certain churches which he had received as a marriage portion with Mabel his wife.‡

Richard I., almost as soon as he had fairly seated himself upon the throne of his kingdom, prepared for that enterprise which he had vowed to undertake—a crusade to the Holy Land. And as he intended this to eclipse all former expeditions of a like character, he used all the means at his command for raising money to carry out his plans upon a scale commensurate with his dignity and the supposed importance of the end to be gained. He sold nearly all the crown lands. To the Bishop of Durham he sold the earldom of Northumberland, remarking that he had made a young earl of an old bishop. For ten thousand marks he delivered up to the King of Scotland, Berwick and Roxburrough, and desisted from his claim to the feudal sovereignty of that country. When some of his subjects ventured to expostulate with him upon his thus alienating so many of the possessions of the crown, he replied,—"I would sell London itself could I meet with a chapman able to purchase it:" so intent was he upon his enterprise. Richard also resorted to other means to obtain money which were not so reputable. The annalist (Hoveden) says, "whoever chose bought of the King their own rights, and those of others; by which the King acquired a very large sum of money."

The Crusade in which our lion-hearted King took so prominent a part, is a brilliant episode in the history of the past, but is extended over too large a field, and is not sufficiently connected with our present subject to allow of more than cursory allusions to it. Suffice it now to say this was emphatically the golden age of chivalry—and war, with all its accessories, was gilded over with a pomp and a gorgeous magnificence probably never since equalled. Hear an eye-witness (Vinisauf) describe the appearance of the army as led by Richard against Jerusalem in 1192. "There were to be seen innumerable flying banners, ensigns, and pennons of various kinds; the sons of so many mothers, born in so many countries; so many arms of every form, crests of helmets glittering with gems, shining corslets, flaming lions rampant on shields, or golden flying dragons, lofty steeds eager to bound away, whose bridles, as they disdained to be held, foamed with their ardour; so many mules, so many lances glittering with sharp

* Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 124. Upon levying the Scutage for Wales in I. Richard, Nigel answered £44. 2s. 8d. for the knights' fees he then held.—*Ibid.* This Scutage was at the rate of 10s. for every knight's fee.

† Nichols' Leicestershire. ‡ Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 124.

heads, the air shone with the torch of their swords; so many valiant and chosen soldiers as, in my opinion, would suffice for a greater multitude of Turks . . . . . "*

Nigel de Mowbray assumed the cross and departed for the Holy Land in the third year of Richard's reign: why he did not go with the vast army which accompanied the king two years previously does not appear, and whether he now went as a soldier, or as a simple pilgrim, is uncertain; though I am inclined to think he went in the former capacity, because in the same year (1190 or 1191) several other important personages† appear to have left England for Palestine, and it is probable Nigel was one of their companions. One thing, however, is certain, in either case his plans were frustrated,—whether he left his native shores as a warrior, aiming to emulate, or perhaps even to eclipse, the valiant deeds of his father, and to equal his indomitable courage and perseverance, or, whether he went as a conscience-stricken pilgrim, vainly hoping by such a means to wash out the many and great offences his heart told him he had committed, he was equally without obtaining the desired end; for instead of contending with the hosts of the Saracen king—instead of bending the knee in reverent worship in the holy sepulchre, a stronger enemy met him by the way,—he died on ship-board, in the Greek sea, and his remains (being placed in a coffin with an inscription thereon, declaring whom it contained)‡ were lowered into their watery grave, there to rest until soldier and pilgrim, mussulman and christian, are alike summoned—how vast an army!—to stand before their Judge.

Thus died in 1191, Nigel de Mowbray, the fourth lord of Melton after the conquest.

Nigel left issue by Mabel his wife, four sons—William, Robert, Philip, and Roger. From Robert, the second son, descended the Mowbrays of Scotland; Roger died without issue; of Philip we know nothing; and William, as the eldest son and heir of his father, became the next lord of Melton; and in the sixth year of Richard I., paying a hundred pounds for his fine, or as it was termed relief, had livery of his lands,§ that is, obtained possession of the estates which his father (like all the other great barons) held directly from the king. Perhaps I may here remark, that when at the conquest, lands were granted to the various companions of William in his expedition against England, they were held by the recipients (in accordance with the feudal system introduced by the Normans) immediately of the king; and the conditions upon which they were held, was the performance of certain honorary services.

* Keightley's Crusaders, p. 486.

† Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 88. List of Crusaders in Wiffin's Translation of Tasso, vol. i., p. 75.

‡ Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 124. § Ibid.

These great tenants of the crown were divided into two classes, those who held by knight's service *in capite*, and those who also held *in capite*, by grand sergeantry. The services required of the former were to bear arms in the king's behalf, and to attend him in his wars; in addition to which, the latter were required to attend the king in his court at the great festivals; and at other times when summoned, to carry his banner, or his lance; or to be his champion, butler, &c., at his coronation. These, the latter, held their fiefs *per baroniam*, were the king's barons, and as such possessed both a civil and criminal jurisdiction, each in his court baron; and as it was the principle of the feudal system that each tenant should attend the court of his immediate superior, these greater barons (as they were afterwards termed) having no superior but the king, were bound to attend the sovereign in his great council or parliament, which was in fact the great court baron of the realm.* It was to this noble body that William de Mowbray and his ancestors from their first settlement in England belonged. Having become one of these magnates, his loyalty and patriotism were soon to be tested. Richard, after performing great exploits in the Holy Land, both by his own arm and by means of his army, concluded in the year 1192, a truce with Saladin for three years; and wishing to return home secretly by way of Germany, he attempted to pass through that country in disguise. For this purpose he assumed the name of Hugo the Merchant, his hair and beard being long in order the better to prevent recognition; but the profusion of his expenditure raised suspicion, and he fell into the hands of the Duke of Austria at Vienna, who delivered him up to his feudal lord, the Emperor of Germany. After being examined before the Germanic Diet upon certain real or pretended misdeeds laid to his charge, it was agreed he should be acquitted and set at liberty, upon the payment of a ransom amounting to one hundred thousand pounds. Towards this ransom William de Mowbray was assessed eighty-eight pounds, and was moreover one of the pledges, upon the King's enlargement, for payment of the remainder of the money.† The greater portion of the ransom being paid and security given for the remainder, Richard was released from his captivity on the feast of the Purification of the Virgin, 1194, and quickly returned to England, where he was received with every demonstration of joy by his subjects and was again solemnly crowned at Westminster. During Richard's captivity his brother John, taking advantage of his misfortunes and absence, attempted to seize the government, which however, owing to the exertions of Eleanor the queen mother and the fidelity of the greater number of the Barons, he was unable to effect; indeed upon Richard's return, Nottingham Castle was the only strong place in the hands of John's adherents; Richard

* *Vide* Mr. Courthope's Historic Peerage.—(Observations on Dignities).
† Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 124.

hastened to besiege it, stormed the town and soon obliged the garrison to capitulate.

It is highly probable that it was at this time that Richard visited Melton: for having reduced the castle of Nottingham, he made an excursion of pleasure into Sherwood, which was then one of the largest forests in England, extending from Nottingham into Yorkshire. There it was that Robin Hood and his men then ranged, "gay, blithe, and free," and doubtless the existence of this band of outlaws would be an additional inducement to Richard to visit a locality in which they maintained a rude independence, refusing to acknowledge the supremacy of the Norman. It is, we say, probable that Richard at this time visited Melton and executed the deed which attests his presence in this town. "I confirm," says he, "to God and the Church of St. Andrew of Ouston and its Canons, the Church of Methborn, which my father gave to them in free and perpetual alms. Given at Melton, under our great seal."* These simple words, "given at Melton," are the only record we possess of the visit of the most warlike of our many warrior-kings to this our town; but we may in imagination picture the valiant, handsome, but proud monarch, clad in his coat of mail, and bearing upon his shield (the first fruits of English Heraldry) the three lions passant, which have ever since been borne by his royal successors—emblems, perchance, of his courage and noble bearing, but no fit symbols of the gross vices—the king's "three favourite daughters"—pride, avarice, and voluptuousness, which so marred and stained his public and private life. We can picture Richard, attended by many of his grim and stalwart companions in arms. There was Ranulph, Earl of Chester, one of the most powerful of the king's barons, and who owned many lordships in this county: there was Jeffrey Fitz Piers, or Peter, afterwards Earl of Essex and Chief Justiciary of England: there were also Hugh Bardolf † and Hugh Autun;‡ these, and doubtless many more of the chief men of the land, were in the train of the king when he visited ancient Melton. Tradition whispers that King Street owes its name to the visit of this monarch. If this be so, it is not improbable that the castle of Melton, mentioned by Burton as having been founded by "Roger Lord Mowbray," may have stood in the neighbourhood of this street. Indeed, architectural features of the Norman period have upon more than one occasion been here brought to light. The castle of Melton may have been erected, as Burton remarks, "in regard of the fit and pleasant site," and used as a domestic dwelling, rather than as a place of defence;§ the

* Nichols' Leicestershire, under Ouston.

† He was Sheriff of Leicestershire and Warwickshire (which two counties formerly went under one charge) in 3 Richard I.—*Burton's Leicestershire, p.* 323, *Ed.* 1622.

‡ These all appear as witnesses to the above-mentioned deed.

§ Burton's Leicestershire, p. 3, first edition.

silence of history and tradition as to its fate would lead us to infer this. Again, tradition points to the ground at present occupied by premises in the tenure of Mr. Towne and others, at the left hand of the entrance into King Street from the Market Place, as the site of an ancient hostelry. Perhaps these loosely authenticated scraps from oral history may permit us to indicate almost the precise locality occupied by Richard and his court during his sojourn in this town.

The war with France, for which Richard was now preparing, lasted about five years, indeed, until the time of his death. "With whom," says an old writer,* "the glory and honour of military skill expired"—another† asserts (the warlike and courageous character of Richard had a peculiar charm for our ancient historians) that "with him, in the opinion of many, were buried alike the pride and honour of the chivalry of the West."

Upon the accession of John to the throne, and before his arrival in England, many of the barons, including William de Mowbray, were backward in rendering their allegiance; and when Hubert, Archbishop of Canterbury, William Marshall, and Geoffrey Fitz Peter, Justiciary of England, the chief upholders of John's interests, summoned these barons to the great assembly held at Northampton, they would only swear to preserve their fealty to him and to keep the peace upon condition that he would give to each of them his due, and render to every of them his rights.‡

Early in John's reign William de Mowbray defended a lawsuit against William de Stutevill, for the estates forfeited by that baron's ancestor, Robert de Stutevill or Fronteboef, in consequence, it will be remembered, of his taking part with Robert Curthose against Henry I.; these lands having then been bestowed upon Nigel de Albini, the great grandfather of the William de Mowbray of whom we are now speaking. It appears that in Henry the Second's time a claim had been made for this barony by Robert de Stutevill against Roger de Mowbray, when an arrangement was made between them by which Roger gave to Robert Kirby in Moorshead,§ with its appurtenances, to hold by the service of nine knights' fees, in full discharge of his claim; but this arrangement not being confirmed in the King's Court, and sanctioned by his authority, William de Stutevill now commences new suits against William de Mowbray to recover possession of the ancient barony of his house. After the contention had been carried on for some time, the dispute (in the second year of John's reign) was determined by the King and his Council in this manner: William de Stutevill renounced his claim to the barony in question, and William de Mowbray gave to him for this renunciation nine knights' fees in addition to those

* Speed. † Wendover ‡ Speed and Hoveden.
§ Probably Kirby Moorside, twenty-four miles from York.

under the former agreement, and a yearly rent of twelve pounds.* It should be remembered, that in a dispute of this nature there was something contended for beyond the mere pecuniary value of the lands. The dignity of the peerage was not then as now, personal, but territorial, that is, not vested in the individual as such, but vested in him as holder of certain landed estates, and a proof of tenure *per baroniam* constituted a right to attend the councils of the sovereign as a lord of Parliament; thus the possession of the above disputed barony,—though in this particular case the loss of it would not affect in that way either the plaintiff or defendant, as they were both holders of other fiefs,—would in all probability confer upon the holder thereof the dignity of a Baron by Tenure.†

After ascending the throne under circumstances so clearly shewing there was little confidence and mutual esteem between the king and his barons, it is not surprising that the unjust exactions of money extorted by John from both clergy and laity, to spend in extravagance and debauchery, should cause William de Mowbray and the other great barons to rise and protest against such stretches of the kingly prerogatives: much less is it surprising that the excessive indolence of the king, amounting almost to cowardice, which lost to the English crown the dukedom of Normandy, and that want of statesmanlike foresight, prudence, and firmness, which caused the kingdom to be placed under an interdict, himself excommunicated, a foreign power almost in possession of the realm, and which finally rendered himself and his subjects tributaries and vassals to the papal court, should cause John's warlike and almost independent barons to raise their voices and draw their swords against such infringements upon the honour and liberties of the country.

We accordingly find that the lord of Melton (being then governor of York castle) joined the great barons, who in 1215, took up arms in order to enforce their demands upon their reluctant king. And after obliging John to grant them the great Charter of Liberties at Runnimede, William de Mowbray and his brother Roger, were among the twenty-five barons chosen to enforce the king's observance of that famous Charter.‡

It has been well observed, that it is curious to note how thoroughly English these originally Norman barons had by this time become; William the Conqueror might be despotic, and his power unlimited, so long as that power was used for his followers'

* Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 455. Roger de Hoveden, vol. ii., p. 483. Dugdale says that Stutevill laid claim, amongst other places, to Melton: but it is not at all clear upon what his claim rested, for it will be remembered that the Mowbrays held that lordship in direct succession from Nigel de Albini, who became possessed of it as parcel of the estates of Geoffrey de Wirce, and not as part of the possessions forfeited by Robert de Stutevill.

† *Vide* introduction to Mr. Courthope's Historic Peerage.

‡ Wendover's Chronicle, vol. ii., pp. 307 and 323.

benefit; but now, after the lapse of a hundred and fifty years, when by possession, intermarriages, and other circumstances, they had become firmly fixed in their new homes, they, the conquerors, rose in arms against their king, and demanded a charter, granting them the privilege of living under the ancient laws of the conquered people. For although this charter was said to be a confirmation of that granted by John's predecessor, Henry I., still, it must be remembered that the one granted by that monarch, was a re-establishing of very many of the good old laws, collected by Edward the Confessor, under which the Saxons lived.

Thus was raised the standard of freedom in England, which has (notwithstanding many vicissitudes) never since that day been hauled down; and the charter then obtained, relaid the foundation of a constitution, which, for its just appreciation of the wants and liberties of all classes living under its influence, has never been equalled, and of which every loyal subject of England's queen is, or ought to be, both proud and watchful. It may be said that the great charter rather recognized, and gave substance to old laws, and dormant privileges, than gave new ones. That is true, but it was surely a vast stride towards constitutional freedom to have these—many of them—traditional laws and disused customs, again solemnly recognized by the king and his leading subjects, as the fixed and certain laws of the country, and as the broad basis upon which all future legislation was to be built.

It could hardly be expected that a man of John's character would quietly submit to be guided by a charter obtained from him under such circumstances. He quickly refused the observance of it, saying it had been wrested from him by force, and he applied to his new lord, the pope, to absolve him from the oath he had taken in respect of it. The pope not only absolved him, but declared the charter void by a special bull, and excommunicated the barons, first as a body, and then, because they affected to question the efficacy of an instrument in which each was not particularly named, he thundered the sentence against each individually, not forgetting especially to mention William de Mowbray. The lord of Melton (in common with the other barons) was described by the Holy Father as being worse than a Saracen, and he was to be strictly avoided by all.* The pope's letters of excommunication appear to have been little heeded, either by the barons or the people generally; they asserting that "the management of lay affairs did not belong to the pope .... so they held worship throughout the whole city (London) ringing bells, and chanting with loud voices."†

Then came that miserable civil strife, where we see the king calling over foreign mercenaries to wage war against his subjects,

* Roger de Wendover's Chron., vol. ii., p. 354. † Ibid, p. 356.

and the barons attempting to place a foreign prince upon the throne of their king. The king being, by means of his foreign troops, too strong for the barons, they were reduced to great straits. Cursing the king's fickleness and unfaithfulness, they thus gave vent to their grief: "Woe to you, John, last of kings, detested one of the chiefs of England, disgrace to the English nobility! Alas! for England already devastated, and to be further devastated. Alas! England, England, till now chief of provinces in all kinds of wealth, thou art laid under tribute . . . . . We read that many other kings, yea, and princes, have contended even to the death, for the liberty of their land which was in subjection; but you, John, of sad memory to future ages, have designed and made it your business to enslave your country which has been free from times of old; and, that you might drag others with you into slavery . . . . . have in the first place oppressed yourself; you have, from a free king, become a tributary, a farmer, and a vassal of slavery; you have bound by a bond of perpetual slavery this noble land, which will never be freed from the servile shackle, unless through the compassion of Him who may at some time deign to free us and the whole world, whom the old servitude retains under the yoke of sin. And what is to be said to you, O Pope! who ought to shine forth an example to the whole world as the father of holiness, the mirror of piety, the defender of justice, and the guardian of truth; do you agree to this? do you commend and protect such a one? But because he inclines to you you defend this drainer and extorter of the wealth of England and the English nobility, that everything may be absorbed in the gulph of Roman avarice; but this plea and excuse, this sin and accusation are before God."*

In language so spirit-stirring and patriotic did the barons, according to a contemporary writer, protest against the base proceedings of King John and the grasping and corrupt practices of the papal court.

William de Mowbray was among those who now invited over and adhered to Louis son of the King of France. The French landed in England on the 30th of May, 1216, and on the 19th of the October following, King John died. Henry III. was crowned with a circlet of gold at Gloucester, on the 28th of the same month.

In the first year of the young king's reign William de Mowbray was taken prisoner, fighting in the ranks of the French Prince at the battle of Lincoln, by William Marshall, regent of the kingdom during Henry's minority, and his lands were forfeited and bestowed upon William Marshall the younger.† William de Mowbray was however enabled immediately to redeem all his estates,‡ which, if he had not done, would quickly have reverted to him, for in the very

* Wendover's Chron., vol. ii., p. 357. † Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 124.

‡ Dugdale says "but in consideration of the lordship of Benestede in Surrey, given by him to Hubert de Burgh, then Justice of England, he soon redeemed all."

year in which he was taken prisoner, a treaty of peace was concluded between Henry and Louis in which it was stipulated that all who had taken part with the latter, since the commencement of the war, should have their liberty and the possession of their lands.

At least an outward show of confidence now existed between William de Mowbray and his sovereign, for in 1220 he attended the king's army to the siege of Bitham Castle in Lincolnshire, then fortified and held by William, Earl of Albemarle, in rebellion against the king; and he had scutage from those who held lands of him by military service towards the charges incurred by him in that expedition. Roger, his younger brother, dying without issue, William de Mowbray had livery or possession of his lands, paying the relief or fine due to the King for the same.*

As to his benefactions to the Church,—he founded a chapel at Thirsk, dedicated to S. Nicholas, and therein or in connection therewith, a chantry,† the bell of which it was agreed, by a composition made with the monks of Newbrough Abbey, founded by Roger, his grandfather, should be rung although it was not a parochial chapel, at the celebration of mass whenever he or any of his heirs should be present; as also on the festival of S. Nicholas, and the obits or anniversaries of the deaths of his ancestors.‡ He also released to the Hospital of Burton Lazars, the foreign military service due to him for five bovates (a bovate was about twenty-eight acres) of land at Leesthorpe.§

William de Mowbray, the fifth lord of Melton after the Conquest, ended his turbulent life, in the year 1222, in the Isle of Axholme, and was buried in the Abbey of Newbrough, leaving issue by Agnes his wife, who was daughter of . . . . Earl of Arundel,‖ two sons, Nigel and Roger.¶

And here, that I may not weary you, we will for the present close our attempted sketch of "the Mowbrays, lords of Melton." We have it is hoped formed such an acquaintance, slight though it be, with these mighty men in the early history of our town and country, and have obtained such an insight, however dim and obscure, into the times in which they lived, as will prevent our meeting together from being an entire waste of time, or altogether wanting in that interest and stimulus to thought and reflection which such a subject ought to awaken in both the reader and listener. We have seen that the lordship of Melton passed from Geoffrey de Wirce, the original grantee under the Conqueror, to Nigel de Albini, the

* Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 125; and Rapin.

† This chantry has entirely disappeared.—*White's Month in Yorkshire.* 1858.

‡ Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 125. § Nichols' Leicestershire, under Burton Lazars.

‖ This was probably William de Albini the second Earl of Arundel (ob. 1196). If so, his daughter Agnes was great grandaughter of William de Albini Pincerna, her husband, William de Mowbray, being great grandson of Nigel de Albini, William Pincerna's brother.

¶ Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 125.

ancestors of the Mowbrays and Belers of Leicestershire. We then accompanied Roger de Mowbray his son and heir, the third lord of Melton after the Conquest, through his journeys to the Holy Land, and until we noticed the uncertain date of his death, and the doubtful place of his sepulture, not neglecting to record the foundation by him of the famous hospital or Lazar-house at Burton Lazars. We next mentioned Nigel the son and heir of this Roger, and the fourth owner of this lordship after the Conquest, whose vast possessions passed into the hands of his son William de Mowbray, the fifth lord, who took so prominent a part in obtaining from King John the grant of the Great Charter.

MELTON MOWBRAY, *December 20th*, 1858.

THE REV. J. M. COLLES in the chair.

Melton and the Reformation.

BY MR JAMES THOMPSON.

MANY records of the past, which have never seen the light of day for centuries, are at this time lying at the bottom of old chests, buried in the dust of antiquity. Having no practical value—affecting no title to an estate, or any question of pedigree—they remain unmolested in their hiding-places, from the influence of that inert Conservatism which forms so essential an element in the national character. These documents may be parish registers, town accounts, entries of the proceedings of local courts, rolls of ancient fraternities, or the muniments of municipal bodies—the "short and simple annals" of communities, large and small, once as much occupied with the busy affairs of life as we, their successors and descendants, may be at this day.

Much has been done by archæologists in bringing forth from obscurity these relics of the former transactions of public life. Many have of late years been diligently searched for and examined, and their contents have aided in the correction of pretentious volumes, and in showing how much, very much, remains to be done before a History of England, really worth the name, can be written. Local history has thus been largely indebted to such records for its fulness, its accuracy, its truthfulness, its graphic interest, and its extensive corroboration: a single fact starting out of an ancient manuscript, like a bright ray of truth, illumining contemporary history in a way peculiar and remarkable. To find

knowledge in this manner is, indeed, to light the torch from the lamp still left burning, however feebly, by the people of the past.

Hitherto, attention has been mainly turned to the archives of Boroughs—it has often been supposed the market towns, unincorporated, had no story to tell us of their bygone vicissitudes. The parish chest, it was supposed contained no secrets worth knowing. But this is not invariably to be taken for granted; as there are cases in which they either did or do contain something worth knowing—something which is not beneath the notice of the historian,—if the life of townsmen in the centuries left behind be worth studying, and the manner in which they groped their way from the narrow and selfish cares of obscure households, to the more generous duties of public life, be a subject deserving inquiry and prompting to meditation—if the political discipline which has in successive centuries prepared Englishmen for the proper performance of local administration, and the wise enjoyment of local liberty, be worthy the study of a people whose ability for self-government places them at the head of the nations.

To come to the case before us: large quantities of ancient manuscripts, rich in illustration of your local history, are still extant in a state of comparatively good preservation. They contain the materials for even a voluminous narrative, and they appear never to have been either carefully examined, or even partially made public. This renders them additionally important and valuable, and more stimulating to the curiosity of the antiquarian inquirer than they would have been, had it been otherwise.

Before calling your attention to the matters contained in these ancient papers, I will attempt to give you a brief preliminary account of the growth of the town, ere it had arrived at that epoch in its history on which the information derived from the town muniments throws so much light. In doing this I have little to offer beyond conjecture; though we learn thus much from original records—that the ancient name of the town was Medeltone.

This fact has its etymological significance, as, in accordance with the rule of our Saxon or Anglian forefathers, on its allotment to its first proprietor the place was called a *ton* or town, which meant, primitively, the entire area of the lordship, fenced in, and divided from the surrounding townships—distinguished by the prefix Medel, or middle, to denote its position relatively to adjacant and dependent hamlets, on the same principle as Norton signifies the North Town, and Sutton the Sud or South Town; Easton and Weston speaking for themselves. In all these instances, some other town is understood to be referred to, as the North Town would be north of a pre-existing settlement and so the Middle Town implies the previous existence of surrounding hamlets. It is not difficult to perceive how, in the lapse of generations, Medelton became softened and shortened into Melton—the tendency of

popular usage being, as is well known, to drop what appear to be superfluous syllables in all such cases.

On the assumption of Melton having received its name from the fact of its having been the centre of a group of hamlets, we shall next discover that something is to be inferred concerning the relative *date* of its settlement; for, as it would not be called the "Middle" Town before any hamlets were standing around it (the appellation being then meaningless), it must have been so designated on its establishment subsequent to the formation of the hamlets—unless it be supposed that Melton was as ancient a place as any of the hamlets, known by some other and older name, but named anew for some specific purpose. This, however, appears improbable. The town was, then, called the Middle Town because when it was first formed, settlements were already existing around it, and it was placed in their midst for some definite purpose. We need not go far to point this out, when it is remembered how much the early ecclesiastical arrangements of the country were interwoven with its parochial affairs: the very term "hamlet" having an ecclesiastical signification, implying dependence on the parish for religious ministrations. The establishment of a central village, with its attendant hamlets, and subsequently to their settlement, followed, then, it is probable, on the erection of a Christian church in the locality.

I may here observe that this part of Leicestershire was once thickly populated by the Danes and Northmen, as the numerous names ending in *by* indicate. It is now generally admitted (and the truth is attested by the eminent Danish antiquary, Worsaae, in a work recently published by him) that the Danes may be traced all over England by the villages of which the names end in *by*. Now the Danes, it is well known, long after their settlement in England, were stubborn and ferocious Pagans, when their neighbours and kinsmen, the Saxons, had become Christianized. They cherished their hatred of the Cross until as late a date, in some cases, as the Norman Conquest; and it is probable the mass of them remained unconverted heathens until the commencement of the eleventh century. The native population of the county, however, had been converted (nominally, at least) as early as the year 650; and thirty years after, according to Florence of Worcester, a bishop was resident in Leicester; but the Danes were not thoroughly in possession of their lands in the midland counties before the year 900. The Danish hamlets around Melton, therefore, would be occupied about that date. At this time, and until the year 970, a Christian bishop held his see in the county town. It was in all probability under the directions of one of these zealous ecclesiastics that missionaries laboured among the ancient pagans of this district, and one of the fruits of their labours was the erection

of the church at Middle Town, to which the converts of the adjoining hamlets flocked for Christian instruction and worship.

A circumstance like this has in numerous instances led to the formation and growth of a rural community. This might be expected; for the church of itself, in ancient days, drew round it a population, for various reasons, into which I have not space to enter, but which may be readily imagined. The concourse of persons brought from the hamlets to the church every Sunday, if not oftener, may have led to the same result; and the Middle Town must in time have become the place to which the villagers resorted for such articles as they needed and could afford to purchase. In the reign of Edward the Confessor—a hundred years, or probably less, after the date of the foundation of the town—here was a weekly market. This lends corroboration to the belief that the erection of the church was the occasion of the origin of the place; as the ecclesiastics of the age had the influence to obtain such a grant from the Saxon Duke or Earl of Mercia then living, and were very likely to do so, with a view to promoting the convenience and traffic of the district. The reign of Edward the Confessor extended from 1042 to 1066, and the Earl of Mercia who figured most in history at this time was Leofric, the husband of that Lady Godiva whose name is so familiar to all from childhood. It was therefore Leofric, or one of his immediate predecessors or successors, to whom the inhabitants were indebted for the privilege of holding their first markets.

From the foregoing, and from other causes, the town took the lead, and in the year 1088, when the Doomsday survey was taken, its population exceeded that of any one of the hamlets. At this date two-thirds of the people everywhere subsisted in different degrees of what we, the moderns, should call slavery: they were designated villeins, bordars, and bondmen. The villeins were peasant farmers, who, in acknowledgment of the tenure of their cottages and allotments, performed servile labour for the lord of the manor. At the date here alluded to there were twenty such in Melton. The bordars held cottages, and in lieu of money rent supplied their lord with poultry and eggs, and their condition was generally more enslaved than that of the villein. The bondmen were yet lower in the scale of dependence, and might be bought and sold, at a time when a slave was worth only four times more than an ox. In Melton there were fourteen bordars and four bondmen. Two priests ministered to the spiritual wants of these thirty-eight ignorant, homely, laborious rustics, and their wives and children, as well as to those of the hamlets. Clad in their loose frocks of homespun linen, or of the skins of animals; without any head covering for the men, except their shaggy and uncombed locks; without any covering for their legs, except thongs of leather twisted round them; shod in sandal-shoes, and occasionally garbed

in plain mantles of the same texture as their tunics,—these men and women, and others like them, the ancestors of the Englishmen and Englishwomen of the present day, of lord and burgess and labourer, toiled in the fields on the week day, and said mass and vespers on the Sunday. In their social life there is nothing for the historian to record. To till the soil, to fell the forest tree, to sell their produce at the market; to listen in the dark evenings of winter, by the log fire, to the legends of the olden time, and the whispered and forbidden stories of their yet latent paganism—to grow merry with ale on the Feast of the Virgin, or when the harvest was gotten in, or when the block was laid on the hearth at Yule-tide,—such was the sum and substance of the life of an inhabitant of Melton at the time under review.

You have already heard from Mr. North how, at an early date, the possession of the town fell into the hands of the Mowbrays. But beyond receiving the rents of their humble tenants, and the taxes they paid (including the receipts from the markets, amounting, according to Doomsday Book, to 20s. yearly), these great barons knew little, and probably cared less, for the population settled on their estates. Whether the Mowbrays had a manor or mansion here is doubtful: as they did not bury their families in the church, it would seem this, at least, was not their accustomed dwelling-place. Further than receiving from their reeves or bailiffs the yearly revenue derivable from the people, and occasionally resting on their passage from one part of the country to another at Melton, its ancient lord's connection with it scarcely extended. While, however, they were yet in this position, the church was granted to the Prior and Convent of Lewes, and at this time much of the present structure would appear to have been in course of erection—the Transition and Decorated Gothic being now prevalent. The transference of the benefice in the year 1289 to the Prior and Convent of Lewes, probably led to the establishment here of a small body of Cluniac Monks, subject to that Prior; their cell with its offices being situate in what is now called Sherrard Street, on the site of the residence lately occupied by Richard Norman, Esq. The monks were provided for by rents, which in Edward the Second's reign were held for them by Roger Beller. In the thirteenth century the Knights Hospitallers—another religious fraternity—held lands in the lordship, and built a chapel on their property, known in the present day as Spittal End. At the close of the century John de Mowbray, son and heir of Roger, held in addition to his estate here, the profits accruing from markets and fairs; the latter having been obtained in addition to the weekly market held long before. Towards the conclusion of Edward the Second's reign a grant of another fair, to be held on the day of St. Lawrence, the 10th of August, was conceded by that monarch.

In these events are indications of the gradual rise of the place,

from the obscure market town of the Saxon times, when Edward the Confessor was king, to a degree of populousness which for a time warranted it in being represented directly in the Great Council of the nation. In the years 1337 and 1338 Melton sent burgesses to Parliament—a fact which implies that there were then dwelling here people capable of contributing to the public taxation; for the object of summoning burgesses to the Commons' House in that age was to ascertain from them how much their neighbours could raise in this manner. But the movement was premature; and no doubt the former townsmen of Melton, instead of coveting the distinction, pleaded hard to be excused from continuing the burdensome proceeding—the expense of maintaining the burgesses during the whole time of the sitting of Parliament, and of their horsehire to and from York or London, where it might be holding its meetings, devolving on the inhabitants.

During the remainder of the fourteenth and the whole of the fifteenth centuries, history is silent concerning Melton; and the only movement which took place in that long interval worthy of our notice, was the institution of religious fraternities called guilds, the object of which was the maintenance of priests to say masses for the souls of the deceased members, with the hope of releasing them from purgatory. Two such bodies were formed in Melton—one taking for its patron "Our Lady the Virgin," the other St. John. Two separate altars in the parish church were devoted to these guilds. The Guild of Our Lady the Virgin was under the management of two wardens chosen by the members, who paid a yearly subscription towards its object; and the yearly rent of a piece of land called "Our Lady's Meadow," and of another called "Our Lady's Close," was similarly appropriated. The priest was paid a stipend of £4. yearly. St. John's Guild was possessed of two or three "wongs" in Melton fields, with various shops and houses, standing together in the street lying between the Sheep Cross and the Spittal Chapel. One of the "wongs" here mentioned lay in the west field under Kettleby hedge, and two of them in the north field towards the Nottingham way.*

How long these Guilds had been in existence before the reign of Henry the Eighth, no records remain to show; but it can be little doubted that the houses and land of which they had become possessed had been in a considerable measure wrung from dying men and women, prostrated by disease and terror, by a crafty priesthood in an age of ignorance and superstition. Towards the close of Henry's reign, however, all colleges and fraternities, with their lands, tenements, and other property, were granted by Parliament to the Crown, and by the latter regranted to the inhabitants of the towns wherein and about which such houses and lands were

* Deposition of Henry Tollys before Kenelm Digby and George Villiers, Esquires, taken at Leicester, April 19, 1577.

situate, upon certain conditions, for the promotion of secular objects and the public advantage. The Guilds of "Our Lady" and "St. John" at Melton were thus abolished. The priests were dismissed from their posts. Town wardens were appointed to collect the revenues. With these the Free Grammar School was set on foot —the public roads repaired—other public improvements effected—and in short, in this way was acquired the MELTON TOWN ESTATE.

Whatever advances had been made towards protestant doctrine and a protestant form of worship by Henry the Eighth, it does not seem that the internal appearance and decorations of the churches were materially altered in his reign. Could any of my hearers have been present in the church of Melton then, he would have seen it in all the pompous show which the ecclesiastics of Rome yet preserve and encourage in their worship. Had he entered the richly-sculptured western porch, and through it into the nave, he would have seen the architecture then nearly as it is now. The wide and lofty nave, with its tall shafts, opening the vista as far as the expanding transepts, and beyond to the chancel, where the high altar stood, then as now imparted to the reverent beholder a sentiment of awe and devotion. But probably the walls and roofs were painted—about and around were sculptured the images of saint and martyr encased in their tabernacles—the rays of the sun shone through panes stained in vivid colours, with emblems of religion, with saintly figures, and with the escutcheons of the Plantagenets, the Mowbrays, the Bellers, the Warrens, and other royal and noble houses—there were three altars overhung with splendid draperies and laden with their glittering accessories of pyx, chalice, and patine, with silver candlesticks, with lighted tapers, and with cherished relic—and over the chancel-screen the rood-loft spanned the space intervening between pillar and pillar, above which would be seen the crucifix, with John and Mary on either side, which arrested the gaze of every worshipper as soon as he had passed through the great western doorway. At Easter time the Resurrection of Christ was rudely dramatized; for then a mimic sepulchre, containing a mimic Saviour, was provided and exhibited. If the devotee entered when the mass was performed, he saw the priest in his gorgeous vestments, attended by his deacons, and the silver censers were tossed aloft, and to and fro, while clouds of fragrant vapour ascended and perfumed nave, and aisle, and transept, symbolizing the prayers of the faithful as they rose to the throne of the Eternal.

All this dazzled the eye, and led captive the truant imagination, but it neither tranquillized the spirit nor satisfied the intellect of the reformer. Henry was scarcely cold in his tomb, before his youthful son began to develope the practical consequences of the measures which had only lately been brought into operation. Orders were issued requiring a Bible to be kept in every church, with

Erasmus's Paraphrase on the New Testament, and the Book of Homilies compiled by Cranmer to be read in every church on Sundays and holidays. Now, also, in London, people took the images out of the churches and burnt them. The year 1547 was drawing to a close when commissioners were appointed to visit the churches, apparently for the purpose of seeing what they contained and for removing the remains of the popish system. The parish records attest how this was carried out in Melton. The earliest of these records I have met with is thus headed: "The Accompt of hus, William Lane and Nicholas Colishawe, churchwardens of Melton, maide the viiith day of Decembr in the iiide yeire of the reign of king Edwarde the vith." The reckoning is retrospective, commencing with the year 1547, the first of Edward's reign. The Churchwardens first debit themselves with the ready money they had received from their predecessors, and then they enumerate the items they have received from oblations or offerings; from parishioners for whose deceased relatives the church bells have rung a mourning peal; from persons who have paid for obits or services said for the soul's health of departed friends; from the rent of the "Lamp Meadow;" from the vicar of Scalford for old taper wax; and from various other sources and persons. But what I have specially to deal with is another class of items, which will show you how the churchwardens, under the authority of the royal commissioners, stripped the fabric of all those objects which had hitherto decked its walls and altars, and reduced it to something more like what it is now than what it had been for ages previous. Here are the entries I have alluded to, taken from the Churchwardens' Account:

"Item, the 9th October paid for a pottle of wine given the king's visitors .. .. iiii*d.*
"Item, pd. for making a bill put in before the king's commissioners at Leicester .. .. iiii*d.*"

From these items we learn that the royal commissioners sat at Leicester, though, in all probability, their agents visited Melton, and made a bill or inventory of the articles found in the church. Another item mentions the fact:

"Item, paid for a pottle of wine given the Commissioner when he came to take a certificate of the churchwardens for the Church goods .. .. vi*d.*"

The royal injunction on the subject of the Bible and Erasmus's Paraphrase is thus mentioned:

"Item, paid for the king's Injunction .. .. .. iiii*d.*
"Item, paid for a Paraphrasis of Erasmus, according to the King's Injunction .. .. vis. vii*d.*"

This work was placed in the Church, sometimes fastened by a chain to one of the pillars, and was intended for popular perusal,

in order that the reader might thereby be instructed in the Reformed doctrines.

In the year 1548 an order in Council was made for removing images out of churches. How it was carried out here, your parish records thus indicate:

"Item, received of Clement Giles for an image case .. .. iiii*d.*
"Item, of the *vicar* for owld images .. .. xii*d.*
"Item, of Barthelemew Wormyll for an Image case .. .. iiii*d.*
"Item, of John Godiere for Imagis .. .. .. xx*d.*
"Item, for four banner poeles .. .. iiii*d.*
"Item, for the green chapell .. .. vii*s.*
"Item, for iii quarters of the c and xvi *li.* bronze tacken down in the churche .. .. vi*s.* viii*d.*
"Item, recd. of Willm. Green for a tabernakell .. .. xii*d.*
"Item, recd. of Robt. Coteller for ii great candelestycks of brass xiii*s.*
"Item, recd. for other candelstiks .. .. v*s.* viii*d.*
"Item, recd. of Wm. Adcock for the rest of a chalice sold by hym vi*s.* viii*d.*
"Item, recd. of Clement Giles for the sepulchre casse .. .. viii*s.* vi*d.*
"Item, recd. for a pair of silver censers and a pyx weighing 33 oz. and a half, and half a quarter, at 4*s.* 8*d.* the ounce.. viii*li.* xvi*s.* xi*d.*
"Item, for certain image cases of wood .. .. .. viii*d.*
"Item, recd. for a pyx, silver and gilt, sold at London, v*li.* ix*s.* iiij*d.*
"Item, for a pair of censers, silver, a ship, for frankincense, of silver, ii cruits of silver, parcel gilt, ix*li.* v*s.* v*d.* .. xv*li.* xiiii*s.* ix*d.*
"Item, recd. for the cross of silver and gilt, sold at London, xix*li.* x*s.* vi*d.* Item, for two images, Mary and John, a pair, silver and gilt, lvi*s.* x*d.* Item, for a chain, silver and parcel gilt, iiii*s.* .. .. xxii*li.* xi*s.* iiii*d.*"

You will have noticed, probably, that the vicar purchased some of the old images. This would appear strange, but it is probable he may have secretly lamented the dispersion of these figures, and may have obtained possession of them with a view to replacing them at a future time. The sale of banner poles implies that the religious processions in which they were carried had been abolished. The removal of bronze, of tabernacles, of candlesticks, of the sepulchre case, and image cases, shows the extent to which the edifice was denuded of its ancient features; but the sale of the silver censers, of the silver cross, which had probably stood on the high altar, of the silver figures of St. John and St. Mary, and of the silver pyx in which the eucharistic vessels were deposited, attests that all which had once been held in most reverent and holy regard was now swept away from the church, and that "the sacrifice of the mass," the drama of the daily service, with its accompaniments of outward magnificence, which once appealed to and charmed every sense, was now held to be an idolatrous ceremony.

What followed? Again your parish records speak for themselves. When the mass was no longer performed, the pulpit rose into importance. Distracted and perplexed as many persons would be with the abrupt, if not violent change from the ancient to the novel

forms of worship, they would need the guidance of the clergyman. Hence we meet with the following:

"Item, pd. Strybull, the 20th day of November for setting [up] the pulpit and other work .. ..iis. viiid."

And again—

"Item, pd. for colouring the Pulpit, the Poor Master's Chest, and the leaf of the table of the Ladye altar .. .. .. xd."

When the old worship had been superseded, and the pulpit had been brought forward into greater prominence than hitherto, numerous teachers of the reformed doctrines sprang up in every quarter, and in their new found liberty they ran into excesses. The Government thought it necessary, therefore, to exert itself in placing some restraint upon their proceedings, and in preventing the spread of wild and unsound tenets. In the month of March, 1548, it was accordingly enjoined that none should preach unless with the authority of the Protector, or the Bishop of a diocese. In the May following a preacher occupied the pulpit of the parish church under authority. Where the vicar was at this time does not appear:

"Item, for wine given to Mr. Turner which preached at Melton, the 10th of May, admitted by my Lord of Aubrey .. .. xd.
"Item, for wine given the bishop of Lincoln .. .. .. xvid.
"Item, pd. to ii ringers which rang to the sermon, when the Bishop of Lincoln was here .. .. iid."

The prelate here referred to was Henry Holbeach, who is represented to have been a very pliant instrument in the hands of Henry VIII. He was translated to the see of Lincoln in the first year of Edward VI.

Much as the service had been simplified it does not seem to have been deprived of the aid of music at this time, for the parish entry says:

"Item, pd. to Laurence Baker for half a year's wages due at Midsummer for playing of the organs .. .. ..iiis. iiiid."

Other preachers occupied the pulpit at intervals, after the bishop:

"Item, pd. for wine and horse meat of Mr. Hugh Rawlins which preached here and showed my lord of Canterbury's license.. viiid.
"Item, for wine given a preacher .. .. iiid."

Early in the year 1549 the book of Common Prayer was adopted by Parliament. It was that drawn up by Cranmer and eighteen other bishops, and it is substantially that now used. The new liturgy was read for the first time, in many places, on

Whit-Sunday in this year. You will here note its first introduction into Melton Mowbray:

"Item, pd. to Wm. Barnaby for a book of the new service .. iii*s*. viii*d*.
"Item, pd. for a book of the new service bound in paste .. vi*s*.
"Item, paid for a Psaltery in English .. .. .. xii*s*.
"Item, paid to William Halley the younger the 8th day of June for riding to Leicester and getting the note for the new service .. .. ii*s*."

THE FOUNDATION OF THE FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

It is remarkable that while in some parts of England the people rose in resistance against the introduction of the new service, compelling the clergy to restore the ancient service, in Leicestershire the voice of disaffection to Protestantism was not heard. How much of this was attributable to the labours of Wickliffe and his "poor priests," who, barefoot and clad in coarsest russet, proclaimed with a fervour worthy of the Apostolic age, the simple evangel of Christ, in the villages and on the commons of this county, a century and a half before the Reformation, it is now impossible to say; but we cannot doubt that some of the descendants of the laity of Leicestershire, who, almost to a man, adopted the principles of that great Reformer, still retained the traditions of his teaching in their households, if they dared not openly avow their belief in them in the market place. The principal disciple of Wickliffe was William of Swynderby. He taught the doctrines of his leader in your parish church, where he afterwards abjured them, under the terrors of persecution. It is not improbable, then, that the seeds scattered by these men had lain long dormant, and had secretly taken root in many an obscure quarter, to appear aboveground in due season, and that when, under Edward the Sixth, reformed doctrines were enforced by Parliament, the popular mind was widely prepared for their reception in this county. At the same time, it cannot be denied that there was an alloy of worldly motive mixed with the more precious constituent of pure principle, which induced acquiescence in the new order of things. At Melton, for instance, you will have noticed how the property of the Guilds of St. Mary and St. John had been appropriated to the secular advantage of the inhabitants, and how, in this way, your Town Estate originated; so that it is evident the great change of the sixteenth century was effected by an appeal to all the passions and feelings most powerful in their influence over the hearts of mankind.

At an early date there was a school in Melton. In the reign of Edward III. such an Institution existed, but its history is involved in uncertainty, and in the times of which I am speaking it had fallen into desuetude. One of the fruits of the Reforma-

tion was, as already hinted, the establishment of a Free Grammar School here. The earliest entry in the Churchwardens' Accounts thus mentions the schoolmaster:

"Item, pd. to Christopher Whitehead that he paid to the late Grammar schoolmaster for part of the wages due at Xmas 1548 .. .." xviii*s.* x*d.*"

Towards the close of the following year, however, a specific grant was made of a tenement, called the Spittal Chapel, and a close of land, of which the rents were to be applied to the maintenance of the schoolmaster. The original copy of this document, in a very frail and perishable condition, is now in existence, and with considerable difficulty I have succeeded in translating and transcribing its contents. It runs as follows:

"To all the faithful in Christ to whom this present writing indented may come, Nicholas Cowlishaw, of Melton Mowbray, in the county of Leicester, yeoman, and Thomas Postern, of Melton aforesaid, yeoman, [wish] health in the Lord. Know ye that we, the aforeaid Nicholas, and Thomas Postern, having given, granted, and by this our present writing have confirmed, to William Brookesby, gentleman, William Lane, gentleman, Seth Lacy, gentleman, Clement Giles, gentleman, Richard Trayford, Robert Halley, Robert Oldham, John Fishpool, John Rous, William Carver, William Adcock, Thomas Pyne, Thomas Hudson, John Parker, John Hopkins, Stephen Shaw, Leonard Lacy, Hugh Lacy, John Downes, and Alexander Bell, all that our messuage and tenement, vulgarly called the Chapel House, otherwise called the Spittal Chapel, and one close of land, with all their appurtenances, now or lately in the occupation or tenure of Dionisius Shepherd, or his assigns, situate, lying, or being in Melton Mowbray aforesaid, parcel of the possessions of the Guild of the Blessed Mary, lately existing, pertaining and belonging thereto, which certain messuage, tenement, close, and other their possessions, we, the aforesaid Nicholas, and Thomas Postern, have lately had given and granted to us by a certain Christopher Draper, citizen and ironmonger of London, as by the charter of the said Christopher, dated on the 10th day of November, in the third year of the reign of our king, Edward the Sixth, more fully appears:—to have and to hold the aforesaid messuage, tenement, close, and other premises, with their appurtenances, to the aforesaid William Brookesby, William Lane, Seth Lacy, Clement Giles, Richard Trayford, Robert Halley, Robert Oldham, John Fishpool, John Rous, William Carver, William Adcock, Thomas Pyne, Thomas Hudson, John Parker, John Hopkins, Stephen Leonard, Hugh, John Downes, and Alexander Bell, and their heirs,—the annual rents, outgoings, and revenues of the aforesaid messuage, tenement, close, and other premises—that they annually for ever shall pay and contribute to the support of a schoolmaster, from time to time, to teach and

instruct boys in grammar, within the town of Melton aforesaid; and under condition that two of the aforesaid William Brookesby, William Lane, [here follows the same list of names as before] whom it shall happen to survive their other co-feoffees within three months next after the death of the aforesaid co-feoffees shall make, or cause to be made, good, secure, and sufficient in law, the said messuage, tenement, close, and other premises to twenty other men, to have and to hold to them and their heirs for ever, under special conditions and intentions, the aforesaid; to hold of the chief lords of the fee by the rent and service thence due and by law accustomed; but that we, the aforesaid Nicholas, and Thomas Postern, and our heirs, the aforesaid messuage, tenement, close, and other premises, with their appurtenances, to the aforesaid William Brookesby, [here the names are repeated] and their heirs and assigns, under the conditions and agreements aforesaid, against us and our heirs will warrant and for ever defend. In testimony of which, we, the aforesaid Nicholas, and Thomas Postern, to this our present writing indented have placed our seals. Dated, on the last day of November, in the third year of the reign of the aforesaid king, Edward VI, by the grace of God of England, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and supreme head on earth of the English and Irish Church.

By me THOMAS POSTERN — By me NICHOLAS COWLISHAW."

All this technical phraseology expresses in a circuitous, legal manner, the simple fact which thus appears in the Churchwardens' Accounts:

> "Item, paid by Nicholas Cowlishaw to Christopher Draper of London, the 21st day of November, for a parcel of land, with the appurtenances, lately called the Chapel House in Melton bought to the town of Melton's use .. .. .. xxi*li.*"

If I were asked to say how the former churchwardens of your town raised this money, I should point your attention to the £19. realized by the sale of the silver cross, the £10. raised by the disposal of the silver censers and cruets, to the £3. odd obtained on the silver and gilt images of St. John and St. Mary. And as some persons present may be doubtful on this head, I transcribe the following from the end of the account.

"Mem., that upon St. Stephen's Day, videlicet, the 26th day of December, in the third year of the reign of Edward the Sixth, the Account was made by William Lane and Nicholas Cowlishaw, churchwardens, the charge and discharge thereof appeareth, and all things allowed and disallowed there remaineth clear in ready money 18s., and in their room is chosen Robert Oldham and John Fishpool to be churchwardens, and delivered unto the same the said sum of 18s."

But to resume:—In the year 1550 Tindal's translation of the Bible into English was published. In this year, too, the following items occur in the parish book:—

"Pd. to Robart Gervys for defacing the altars beneath in the Church .. .. iiis. id.
"Pd. to Roger Gervys for taking down the high altar and the altar in the vestry .. .. xxd.
"Pd. to John Gadder for making the communion table and other things in the church .. .. iiis. jd.

At this time occurs the first mention of the parish register:

"Pd. for kepyng the boke of chrystninge and weading and berying xiid."

Subsequently in Edward's reign, the Common Prayer Book was adopted by Act of Parliament, the Psalms were translated into English metre by Sternhold, a short catechism was published by the bishop of Winchester, and the plate and ornaments remaining in the churches after previous visitations, were seized upon by the royal order. Then came the death of the young monarch, amid the unfeigned and almost universal mournings of the people, in the seventh year of his reign and the sixteenth of his age, in the month of July, 1553.

Every reader of English History is painfully familiar with the name of Mary. Scarcely had she assumed the diadem before she showed what her designs were in reference to religion; for in the latter part of the month of August she prohibited all persons from preaching without her special license, having already ordered a funeral service to be performed for her deceased brother, in her own chapel, with all the ceremonies of the Church of Rome. In Melton the young king's death was celebrated by the ringing of a dirge:

"Item, paid to the ringers for a dirge for the king .. .. viiid."

Again the mass was heard within the walls of the ancient fabric in which for five or six years the Protestant service had been observed, and speedily was the restoration effected; as, on the day after the ringing of the dirge, was the mass said:

"Item pd. for the next day after for mass .. .. .. id."

But, notwithstanding the Queen's prohibition, one man dared to preach the simple truths of the New Testament, unawed by the royal mandate. His figure is before us,—short and compact, wearing his long overcoat of coarse cloth, his countenance furrowed by years and sorrows, his hair white with the snows of eighty winters, his hand grasping the staff which supports his enfeebled frame, and hanging from his girdle his well-worn Bible. Who is this holy and venerable man, with bold, undaunted visage, with piercing glance, and who wears so sad and solemn a countenance? Behold him as he treads the causeway, and passes by the open doorways of the gabled houses of ancient Melton, while young and old, standing in groups, turn their curious glances

towards him! Who is it? Who can it be? It is HUGH LATIMER.

In simple and quaint terms does the parish book record the visit:

"Item, pd. to John Hynman and to Robert Bagworth for ringing the great bell for Master Latimer's Sermon .. .. iid.
"Item, pd. for Master Latimer's charges .. .. .. iis. iiijd."

It was in October, when Mary had been on the throne little more than three months, that the great bell of your parish church summoned the inhabitants to hear "Master Latimer's" sermon. Hushed and breathless was the crowd which collected in the nave and aisles, when he, with something of a prophet's gift, and already approaching near to the martyrdom which was to light up a candle never since extinguished in England, ascended the pulpit; and ever-memorable to his hearers must have been his familiar and homely yet powerful appeals on that occasion.

Was it Melton—if it were not, it might have been—to which Latimer alluded in one of his sermons, delivered before Edward VI., when he said he knew "a great market town, *with divers hamlets* and inhabitants, where do rise yearly of their labours to the value of fifteen pounds, and the vicar that serveth (being so great a cure) hath but twelve or fourteen marks by year; so that of this pension he is not able to buy him books, nor give his neighbours drink." It can scarcely be doubted that this place was Melton—a "market town" with "hamlets"—and the entries read from the parish books corroborate the assumption. It is very probable Latimer was a comparatively frequent visitor to this place, as might be proved; but time will only permit me here to add of him, that twelve months after the date here mentioned he was burned at the stake in Oxford under circumstances of which the memory is unfading.

Meanwhile, step by step, though in rapid succession, Mary endeavoured to restore the observance of the ritual so recently abolished. Towards the close of her first year's reign an act was passed, enjoining the revival of the old forms of worship; and a Convocation was held, at which the doctrine of transubstantiation was re-established. In March, 1554, the mass was again publicly performed, and this of course rendered the re-erection of altars everywhere necessary. In Melton the procedure is thus notified in the Churchwardens' Accounts:

"Item, pd. for seven strike of lime for the high altar, and mending the wall over it .. .. iiis.
"Item, pd. to William Hawley for carrying of stones for the altar one day .. .. vid.
"Item, pd. to Wm. Dyng for carrying of stones for the altar one day .. .. viid.
"Item, pd. to Thomas Gulson for mending of the wall over the altar .. .. iiijd."

Provision for the various requisites for the performance of the ancient worship was also necessary:

"Item, pd. to Margaret Barber for a cross-cloth .. .. iiii*d.*
"Item, pd. to Thomas Pickering for making of the Sepulchre and other things at the same time .. .. iis. iiij*d.*"

The annual procession through the streets on Whit-Sunday was again instituted; the banners and streamers then carried were once more brought forth; and thus to all appearance the outward pomp and ceremony of the Roman worship were again in the ascendant.

"Item, pd. to William Hawley for a streamer and a banner pole xx*d.*
"Item, pd. to Arthur Rose for a piece of wood to make four banner poles .. .. xii*d.*
"Item, pd. the same day 28th of April, to Thomas Pickering for making of them .. .. viii*d.*"

In the month of November following, Parliament met and passed various reactionary measures; among which was one for the revival of the laws against Lollards and Heretics—the preliminary to the terrible scenes enacted in Smithfield and all over the country.

Early in 1555 those persons who had seized the plate and effects of the church were called to a severe account, and forced to purchase their pardon by large payments. The progress of the reaction is exhibited by the entries in your parish books, such as these, relating to wax lights, the patarn or lower rail of the altar, to the holy water strynkil or brush, to the banners, to the priestly vestments—alb, amice, rochet, and surplice—to the holy water stock or basin, and to the rood loft with its accompanying figures:

"Item, pd. for two pounds and a half of wax for the Sepulchre light .. .. iis. iiij*d.*
"Item, pd. to Nixon of Sysonby, for setting up the patarn in the church .. .. v*d.*
"Item, pd. to Wm. Twigg for the patarn in the church .. iis.
"Item, pd. to John Harston for a holywater strynkil .. .. i*d.*
"Item, pd. for four stones of lead to make the holywater stock .. iiij*s.*
"Item, pd. for mending the stonework by the holywater stock .. ii*d.*
"Item, pd. to John Harston for bearing a banner about the field i*d.*
"Item, pd. to Alice Wright for making an alb, an amice, a rochet, and a surplice .. .. xiiij*d.*
"Item, pd. to John Gadder for setting up Mary and John and mending the Rood Loft .. .. xv*s.*
"Item for a piece of wood to mend the Rood Loft to Hugh Lacey viii*d.*"

Nor was the replacing of these symbols and the resuscitation of the practices just referred to the only way in which the temporarily revived Romanism of Queen Mary and her advisers manifested itself. At this date the see of Lincoln was held by John White, an austere zealot of the unreformed faith—he paid a visit to Melton, no doubt for the purpose of trying to reanimate the dying embers of his faith in your town. He is thus mentioned:

"Item, pd. for a gallon of ale to the ringers, when the bishop was here .. .. iii*d.*
"Item, for a book that is my Lord Bishop's Acts .. .. iii*d.*"

Subsequently to this time, in the reign of Mary, little remains to be mentioned respecting the ecclesiastical history of Melton. It was now that the fagots of persecution were blazing in almost every town in England, and that religious intolerance was raging with terrible and uncontrolled fury. Your parochial records are silent concerning this "reign of terror;" and no instance of martyrdom in Melton is recorded. When Mary died, the event must have afforded relief to everybody possessing any humane feeling whatever; since it brought to a conclusion the fearful spectacles which had outraged our common nature.

Once more there was a reaction, and this time it was final. Queen Elizabeth was scarcely seated on the throne before a proclamation was issued prohibiting disputes about religion, and declaring that the Romish ritual, with the exception of the part relating to the Elevation of the Host, should be observed until altered by Parliament. A proclamation was also published prohibiting all preaching without special license, and ordering the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Gospel, to be read in the English tongue. The Romanist customs were, however, maintained to the last hour possible, as this entry in the books in Queen Elizabeth's reign testifies:

"Item, pd. for bearing banners on Cross Monday .. .. ii*d.*"

The popular feeling on the restoration of the Reformed worship operated, I fear, in the commission of some excesses. The populace identified every ornament, every symbol, with Papist superstition and intolerance. Hence, in many instances, they broke into the churches, burnt what they could put their hands on, and shattered the window panes. An entry in the accounts seems to suggest such scenes here:

"Item, paid to the glazier for mending the glass windows .. xxx*s.*
"Paid to Ding for helping him .. .. xii*d.*
"Pd. to Moody and Love for mending the glass in the great window .. .. ii*d.*"

Far more satisfactory to you than these indications of disorder will be the next items I quote:

"Paid for a Communion Book and a Psalter .. .. .. vi*s.* viii*d.*
"Pd. for our charges, and four more, at Leicester, at the visitation, and for our horses .. .. iiij*s.*
"Paid the same time for the Instructions .. .. .. viii*d.*"

"Instructions" intended evidently for initiating the congregation in the new worship. In the month of November in this year (1559) a translation of the Scriptures was undertaken by authority, and it afterwards became the basis of the present version. The next item I quote, though brief, has a deep significance:

"Paid for the Bible .. .. xvi*s.*"

Equally emphatic is the next item I select for your remembrance:

"Pd. to Hickson for taking down the altar and to Dyng for carrying away the stone .. .. iis. iid."

As a necessary consequence, the communion table took its place:

"Pd. to Kidyar for mending the table and serving a form .. iiijd."

Probably the table used in Edward's reign was found and restored to its place. When the Bible had been provided, and the altar removed, and a table introduced into the chancel, there was no possibility of the rood loft being permitted to remain:

"Pd. for taking down the Rood Loft.. .. .. .. iis. iiijd."

Our next item is in character with those preceding it:

"Pd. for a table and a calendar .. .. iis."

When, in the year 1562, the Thirty-nine Articles received the subscription of the two Houses of Convocation, the Reformation may be considered to have been established by the Legislature; so far, indeed, as law can influence religious conviction, or at least outward observances of religion. In that year the parish officers of Melton made other provision for the reformed worship:

"Pd. for nine yards of cloth to make a tablecloth in the choir .. xiis.
"Pd. for bread and wine for the communion at sundry times .. vid."

Here, then, let it be remarked, you meet no longer with the high altar and the mass, but with the table and the Holy Communion. With the act confirming the Queen's supremacy over all estates, ecclesiastical and temporal—passed by Parliament in January, 1563—the new order of things may be said to have been brought to a fixed, definite, and lasting position.

Here I conclude this paper, having shown you, from the records of your own parish, how your Town Estate was first obtained, how your Free School was originally endowed, and how the progress of the Reformation is evidenced by the sale and purchase of ecclesiastical furniture in the period of the development of that mighty event. It is true the entries in a churchwarden's account afford comparatively slight and feeble traces of the past; but probably the hand of the homely townsman who wrote the obsolete characters I have often with difficulty deciphered, trembled with the impetuous flow of the vital current, as it was stimulated by the conflicting emotions—the hopes and fears, the exultation and despondency—of a crisis unparalleled in excitement in our national annals. Slight and feeble, however, as are the traces of the byegone—the ink brown with the trial of three centuries, and the paper musty with its long entombment—their utterance is as that of the living voice of man speaking to us over the dim void of ages, telling us, in broken sentences and painful ejaculations, some-

thing of the struggles and the sufferings of our remote ancestors. That voice comes to us from the grave of the long-past years with its solemn lessons, bidding us remember how many tears, how much treasure, and what torrents of blood have been given as the price of the religious truth and ecclesiastical freedom we now enjoy without stint and without danger. May the great lesson of the sixteenth century be gratefully remembered by us of the nineteenth century! May we never forget that it is one of our choicest heritages as Englishmen, and like other heritages is not merely ours selfishly to reap the profit of; for we are bound, by the honour we bear our heroic forefathers, who won for us our spiritual estate, and by the respect we would ourselves deserve in our day and generation, to act like faithful stewards, and to transmit our domain of truth and freedom unimpaired to posterity.

Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society.

MELTON MOWBRAY, *January 24th*, 1859.

WILLIAM LATHAM, ESQ., in the chair.

The Mowbrays, Lords of Melton.

BY MR. THOMAS NORTH.

PART II.

ON again introducing "the Mowbrays, lords of Melton" to your notice, it may not be amiss to recall to your recollection that the last sketch terminated with the death of William de Mowbray, the fifth lord after the Conquest, in the year 1222.

At that period our country had, as we have seen, made great strides towards constitutional freedom. The barons who took up arms against King John, established the fact that resistance was to be expected when the sovereign overstepped the boundaries of justice and the kingly prerogatives. And then to define that justice, and to draw a boundary line around those prerogatives, the barons demanded and obtained the Great Charter of Liberties as a guarantee against future disputes and contentions.

As to the Crusades in which the Mowbrays co-operated so heartily, we have glanced at the great hold they acquired upon the enthusiasm and religious feelings of all classes of the people. Whether the result of those religious wars was a good one, whether chivalry was strengthened in its upholding of veracity, honour, and true gallantry, or whether a baneful influence was cast over the brighter concomitants of ancient warfare by those fierce and bloody conflicts with the infidels, is an open question, and one which finds many and various answers.

With regard to the architectural taste of the age, we have only to refer to the noble works still standing as proofs sufficient of its due appreciation of what was beautiful in design, combined with a most accurate estimate of what was likely to be constructionally lasting, if not almost imperishable.

To resume our narrative concerning the lords of Melton: William de Mowbray had issue by Agnes his wife, two sons, Nigel and Roger. Nigel, in the eighth year of Henry III., paying five hundred pounds for his relief, had livery or possession of all his lands. He married Maud, daughter and heiress of Roger de Camvil, by whom he left no children. An early death prevented him from taking that prominent position in the affairs of men, which we may presume a son of William de Mowbray would have occupied. He, the sixth lord of Melton after the Conquest, died in the thirteenth year of Henry the Third's reign, at Nantz in Brittany, and was there buried, leaving Roger, his brother, the heir to his possessions.

Upon the death of Nigel de Mowbray, Ralph Fitz Nicholas, steward to Henry III., gave to the King five hundred pounds in order to secure a sanction or a command from him in favour of the marriage of Maud, the widow of Nigel, to one of his sons. This marriage does not appear to have taken place, for a short time after (in the seventeenth year of Henry III.) her uncle, Hugh de Patshull, by a judicious payment of three hundred marks to Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent and Justiciary of England, obtained for her the privilege of marrying whom she pleased, besides making certain arrangements as to her dowery. At the same time Hugh de Patshull also obtained the custody of the lands of Nigel de Mowbray deceased,—his brother and heir, Roger, being then a minor. In the following year however (eighteenth year of Henry III.) John de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln and Constable of Chester, by paying to the King a fine of one thousand marks, gained the custody of these estates, together with the wardship and marriage of the young heir. He did not hold the wardship long, for about four years afterwards he assigned it to Thomas de Furnival, whose object in securing it was to marry Roger de Mowbray to his eldest daughter.*

As explanatory of these proceedings I may be allowed to call to remembrance the fact that at the period of which we are now speaking, when one of the king's tenants-in-chief died, leaving an heir under age, his lands were seized by the king and held by him, or committed by him, for certain pecuniary considerations, to others, to be held during the minority of the heir, who so long as he continued a minor was in ward to the king. The king had the care and education of the youth until he attained the age of twenty-one years, expending upon his education, then chiefly military, so

* Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 124.

much as was suitable to his rank and the tenure of his lands. The Great Charter provided that in case the heir were a minor, upon the death of a tenant-in-chief under the king, he should, upon attaining his majority, have possession of his lands without paying the fine levied by the king upon all such transfers in cases where the heir was of full age. Some compensation was thus made to the young baron for the loss of the emoluments arising from his lands during the time they were held by the king or his nominee. The Great Charter likewise provided that whoever had the wardship should see that the estates did not deteriorate in value during the minority of the heir. If the deceased left only daughters the king had the like profits of relief and wardship, and had also in certain circumstances the right of disposing of the heiresses in marriage. A widow, if she held lands of the king, was not to marry without his consent.*

The marriage planned for young Roger de Mowbray by his guardian Thomas de Furnival, like many a similar project, did not take place, for he married Maud, the daughter of William de Beauchamp of Bedford, and being of full age in the twenty-fifth year of Henry III., did homage to the king, and had, without paying relief as just explained, possession of his lands.†

In the year 1244 Roger paid a tax of eighty-eight pounds five shillings for eighty-eight knights' fees and a fourth part which he held of the king, upon collection of the aid for marrying Margaret, the king's eldest daughter, to Alexander III. of Scotland: and in the next year the like sum upon making the king's eldest son a knight ‡ In Henry the Third's time a knight's fee being valued at fifteen pounds, or two hundred acres of land, it appears by these payments that Roger de Mowbray held of the king no less than 17,622 acres of land. No scutage or aid was then allowed to be laid by the king, unless by consent of the Common Council of the realm, excepting for the two purposes towards which Roger contributed, and for redeeming or ransoming the person of the king.§

Roger de Mowbray, like his ancestors was much engaged in military operations. He was summoned in the forty-second year of Henry III. to march into Scotland, in support of the king of that country, against his rebellious subjects. And in the same year he attended Henry in his inglorious expedition to Chester against the Welsh. In the forty-fourth year of Henry III., and twice subsequently, he was summoned to attend the king with horse and arms.‖

* Archæologia, vol. ii., p. 304, and Rapin.

† Dugdale's Bar., vol. i. p. 125. According to Mr. Courthope's edition of Nicholas' Historic Peerage, Roger de Mowbray married Maud, daughter of *John* de Beauchamp (*vide* that work, p. 47).

‡ Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 125. § Fourteenth section of Great Charter.

‖ Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 125.

The rapacity of the Roman court, sanctioned by Henry III., and the little regard shown by him for those rights of his subjects lately secured to them, and for the observance of his own solemn oaths and promises, at length drove the barons to take up arms against him, in order to secure by force and by taking the principal part of the government of the country into their own hands, what they could not obtain from the free will of the king. In 1258 the barons and all their military tenants assembling at Oxford, they compelled Henry to delegate his royal power to twenty-four commissioners, who were to settle the disputes between the king and his subjects. Twelve were elected by the king, and twelve among whom was Roger de Mowbray, by the barons, who also chose the famous Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, as president of the council.*

There is little doubt that Roger de Mowbray took a prominent part in the unfortunate dissensions which distracted this country during the latter portion of Henry's reign, but history, as far as I am aware, has not chronicled his deeds. He, the seventh lord of Melton after the Conquest, died in the Isle of Axholme in 1266, and was buried in the Friar's Preachers at Pontefract. He left many children; six sons and three daughters. The eldest son, Roger (the other sons all died without issue), being then a minor, was placed in the custody of Maud, his mother.†

The present church of Melton was considerably carried towards completion during the lifetime of the Roger de Mowbray, the seventh lord, whose decease we have just noted. To persons acquainted with the chronology of architecture, the style of building used in the earlier portions of this glorious structure, clearly points to the time of Henry III. as the date of their erection. There are in Melton church many extremely beautiful architectural features of the Early English, or First Pointed Gothic, referable to the date of the reign of that monarch. As with the majority of our country churches, so with Melton, the founder is unknown; his fair and beautiful work remains to excite our admiration and stimulate our zeal, whilst his name is denied to our gratitude and our love. Nevertheless, though history be mute in this matter, and the building itself, though speaking in eloquent silence, if I may use such a contradiction, of the master hand of the builder and the munificence of the founder, gives us no clue to their individuality, conjecture naturally attempts to place this benefactor to Melton, the founder of our church, before her eye.

The Church of Melton, like most similar structures, was raised at different periods, and the early portions removed from time to time, and replaced by the present Decorated work. The four central piers and arches, with the north-east arch adjoining, and some remains of capitals showing the character of the arcade of

* Rapin. † Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 125.

the nave at that period, certify that a cruciform Early English Church was built at the beginning of the thirteenth century. Mr. Wing (to whom I am indebted for all architectural information relating to this matter) informs me that these portions in their architectural features are very distinct and clear as to date, and that the year 1220 may be given as the centre of these first operations. As the building proceeded an amazing improvement took place in the style, a superior doorway was erected in the south aisle, the west front was richly finished with a doorway of the very first character both for design and execution, ornamented on each side with a triangular-headed niche corresponding to the same. (At this time remember the porch was not built.) This western front would probably not be executed *earlier* than the year 1240. After that, the glorious Early English tower was commenced: this, the first portion of the present tower, could not date previous to the year 1250.

Now, although it is impossible to say with certainty by whom the first portions of the church were built—who was in fact its founder—yet remembering that William de Mowbray died in 1222, the early cruciform church appears to have been erected previous to his death, or at all events to have been in course of erection when that event took place. At his decease, as you will remember, his estates passed to his son Nigel, who died about six years afterwards. Then the next heir, Roger, being a minor, the lands did not come into his possession until he was of age, which would be about the year 1240. It was about that date, when the works at Melton (which would appear to have made no progress since the death of William de Mowbray in 1222) were resumed, and then carried on for several years.

It will have been observed that no instances of the last named Roger de Mowbray's liberality to religious houses are recorded. This may be partly accounted for by the fact of the barons having inserted a clause in the Great Charter, forbidding any to alienate their lands to the church. This clause, like others, was, however, frequently set at nought. Perhaps, also, the disturbed state of the country during the lifetime of Roger, and the many and heavy aids demanded by the king from his subjects, might prevent the display of that munificence to religious establishments, for which, as we have seen, the Mowbrays had always shone conspicuous. Still we can hardly suppose that Roger would pass away without leaving some evident token of, at least, his outward reverence for religion—some memorial of his desire to add to the glory of that hierarchy, of which his ancestors appear to have been strong and liberal supporters. Now, presuming this, and presuming further that the ancient church of Melton (for there was undoubtedly a church here prior to the erection of the present fabric) having become dilapidated, and a new one having been commenced by

William de Mowbray, his father, what more natural than for Roger, when he entered upon the possession of his inheritance to continue the work, and by availing himself of the improvements in architecture which had been introduced since his father's decease, to add much to the glory and beauty of the church, in this the fairest of his manors in Leicestershire.

Indeed, if we consider the state of Melton at that period, we shall, I think, arrive at the conclusion that the church must have been raised from one of two sources—either by the munificence of the Mowbray family, who were not only the lords of the manor in the sense we now understand that term, but who were the owners of the greater portion of the lordship—who were in fact "lords of Melton;"—or, it was raised by the Prior and Convent of Lewes in Sussex, who at an early period after the Conquest possessed the advowson, or the right of presentation to the benefice. Nichols* gives a list of Rectors presented by the Prior of Lewes up to about the year 1280, when a blank occurs in the list until the beginning of the fifteenth century, as if something had occurred to prevent the ordinary and regular presentations by the Prior. This we know to have been the case, at least for a time, for in 1285, the Prior and Convent having obtained the appropriation of the advowson—that is, in plain words, having obtained the power to take all the emoluments arising from the rectory to their own use, and to appoint a *vicarius*, or vicar to perform the duties, they did not hold their new possession very easily, as we find some years afterwards (in 1328), having obtained a recognition of their claim to the appropriation (the fact of the recognition being necessary shows the right had been disputed), they had considerable difficulty in obtaining possession from the escheator of the king—John Collingbroke—who had the church lands under his control, apparently as part and parcel of the fee of Mowbray; and again, in 1336, John de Mowbray cited the Prior relative to the advowson.†

Now, although nothing certain can be gathered from these facts in connection with the building of Melton Church, still I think these inferences may be drawn—you will pardon the recapitulation:—the Prior and Convent of Lewes had in the early part of the thirteenth century possessed the advowson of Melton for a considerable time. The church itself, partly by the inevitable inroads of time, and partly by the neglect of the owners of the presentation, who were bound in some measure to care for the preservation of the fabric, had become much dilapidated, was fast falling into decay, and threatened, if it had not already become so, soon to be useless to the inhabitants as a place of worship.

* *Vide* his Leicestershire, under Melton.

† See the Prior's petition to the king in Nichols' Leicestershire, Framland Hundred, p. 242.

Or, perchance the building was thought mean and insignificant, and so was doomed by a large-hearted liberality to give place to a more imposing edifice. William de Mowbray, we will imagine, visiting Melton, saw the condition of its church, and listening to the petitions of his tenantry, the suggestions of the priests, and we will hope following the dictates of his own conscience, resolved to entirely rebuild the edifice. To carry this object into fulfilment, the old church would be lowered to the ground, and the present splendid pile commenced, and would soon be so far completed as to be available for the daily ministrations of religion. At his death, in 1222, the works would be suspended. We find the architectural chronology agreeing with this supposition. His son and successor, Nigel, did not obtain possession of his estates until two years afterwards, when he went abroad, and soon after died, without issue, leaving his young brother Roger his heir. Roger, in consequence of his minority, was under the guardianship of his king, and his estates placed in the hands of the king's nominee, until he was of age, which was in, or about, the year 1240, at which date we again find the works resumed, and the finest portions of the present church added to the former comparatively plain structure. Having added so much to the glory of the fabric, Roger, or his immediate descendants, would think the right of presentation should rest with the family of the founder: hence the disputes with the Prior and Convent of Lewes already referred to. The existence of these disputes tends, I think, rather to support the inference, that if not Roger de Mowbray himself, at least his immediate descendants, opposed the claim of the Priory of Lewes to the advowson, and disapproved of the appropriation of the living, amongst other reasons, because the Mowbrays had re-erected the edifice. And if Melton is indebted to that family for its church, it is, I think, to William de Mowbray we must point as the founder, and to Roger, his son, as the principal beautifier of our present noble structure. And we may add, if they left this legacy to their ancient town of Melton, they raised at the same time to their own memory, a far more beautiful and imperishable monument than the whitest alabaster or the brightest brass.

The former Paper I had the pleasure of reading before you, and much even of this, consist chiefly of the military and political transactions in which the Mowbrays, lords of Melton, were such active co-operators. Indeed upon treating of a period when the very walls of our present political constitution were being built—when constant collisions and quarrels were occurring with our then independent neighbours, the Scots and the Welsh,—when might frequently overruled right—we expect little more than constant warfare, both domestic and foreign, and constant disputes between the different powerful bodies in the state. Therefore any brighter aspects of the times, any traits in the national character, tending

to more peaceful and more holy thoughts and aspirations, are eagerly seized by the historical inquirer, as rays of light cast over the gloom of mediæval times. The mention of the founding of our beautiful cathedral-like church in the thirteenth century, cannot fail to remind us that at least one bright redeeming point stood prominently out amid the darkness, ignorance, and superstition which then enveloped the great mass of the people. I refer to the munificence displayed by our ancestors during what are termed the dark ages, in the erection of edifices dedicated to the glory of God, as fit temples in which to celebrate His praise. And be it remembered, these were not only erected among the busy haunts of men, or adjacent to the castle or baronial hall of the feudal lord, but in almost every valley, on almost every hill in our country, where a few tillers of the soil had formed even the smallest hamlet, there the tower or spire of a church rose up in silent majesty. "For," to use the words of Mr. Blunt, "the principle then was, not that money was to be spent and decoration bestowed merely because man might be at hand in crowds to admire and enjoy; but because God was at all events in that place:" so we often find most beautiful specimens of the architect's skill, and unmistakable proofs of the founder's munificence, in localities but little frequented, in some remote and out-of-the-way spot, which in the days when its church was erected would be almost isolated from the rest of mankind, and where none but "the rude peasants of the neighbourhood and the birds that hovered around the pinnacles," would be witnesses of the many beauties shining forth from the almost speaking stones of their church.

The life and long reign of Henry III. terminated on the 16th of November, 1272—a life neither brightened by any shining virtue, nor dimmed by any conspicuous vice,—a reign disorderly and full of agitation, chiefly remarkable for the changes now, if not really introduced, at least discussed and initiated, in the mode of constituting the Great Council of the kingdom, or as it now began to be called the Parliament. This we shall have occasion to refer to presently.

Edward I., known as "the English Justinian," now ascended the throne, a warlike and enterprising monarch, possessed of many bright and amiable qualities. In the sixth year of his reign, Roger son of the Roger de Mowbray whose death we have noticed as taking place in 1266, making proof of his age, and doing his homage, had possession of his whole inheritance. His mother Maud had previously married Roger le Strange. By writ dated 6th April, 1282, he was summoned to perform military service in person against the Welsh, the gathering being at Worcester, on the 17th of May then next ensuing;* and in the same year,

* Parl. Writs, Ed. I.

perhaps previous to joining the army to which he was thus summoned, "he entailed all his lordships of Thirsk, Kirby Malesart, Burton in Lonesdale, Harringham, Melton Mowbray, Epworth, and the whole Isle of Axholme, upon the heirs of his own body, lawfully begotten, and in default of such issue, upon Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, and his heirs."*

One cannot avoid noticing, that however ready the barons were at this period to render to the sovereign all the services attaching to their fiefs, still the idea of the possession of the lands, which they held, at least nominally, from the king, belonging to themselves, and their heirs, free from any power of his to the contrary, was fast becoming fixed in their minds; indeed a strong instance of this was given when Edward I., in the sixth year of his reign, by his Justices, thought fit to question certain of the great barons, as to the title by which they held their lands. John de Warren being then asked by what warranty he held his estates, produced an old sword, and unsheathing it, said, "Behold, my lord, here is my warranty; my ancestors coming into this land with William the Bastard, did obtain their lands by the sword, and I am resolved with the sword to defend them against whomsoever that shall endeavour to dispossess me. For that king himself did not conquer the land and subdue it, but our progenitors were sharers and assistants therein."†

In the tenth year of Edward I., fighting (according to his summons just noticed) against the Welsh, Roger de Mowbray had scutage, or received aid from all his military tenants.‡ In the year following, by writ dated 14th March, 1283, he was again summoned to a muster at Montgomery preparatory to another attack upon the Welsh;§ and two years later he levied a fine on the Manor of Balshall, in the county of Warwick, upon granting to the Knights Templars a warranty or confirmation of the charter granted to that body upon the foundation of the Preceptory there, by Roger, his ancestor, and by confirming which, "he was (says Dugdale) made partaker of all their prayers and other devout exercises."‖ By summons dated 14th June, 1287, he was commanded to appear with horses and arms at a military council at Gloucester, before Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, on the 15th of July then next ensuing.¶ In that year he took part in another expedition against the Welsh,** and in 1291 he was required to perform military service in person against the Scots.†† In the twenty-second year of Edward I., on the 8th of June, he had summons to attend the king with all speed wheresoever he should be, to give his advice concerning the great affairs of the realm: and the same year he received command

* Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 125.
† Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 79. ‡ Ibid., p. 125.
§ Parl. Writs. ‖ Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 125. ¶ Parl. Writs.
** Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 125. †† Parl. Writs.

to repair to the king at Portsmouth, well provided with horse and arms, and thence to attend him into Gascony, for defence of that province against the French.* He had also summons to the several parliaments of 22nd, 23rd, 24th, and 25th, Edward I.†

This Roger de Mowbray was the first of his family, styled a Baron by Writ. The great baronial body formed by William the Conqueror, although complete for a time, could not of necessity, continue so for many generations. When Roger was summoned to Parliament by Edward I., many of the descendants of the great tenants of the Crown under the Conqueror, had made sub-infeudations of their lands, or had absolutely alienated, by leave of the king, portions of their possessions; thus increasing the number, but decreasing the wealth, of those who held of the king *in capite;* others, again, were reduced in wealth and power by the fines imposed by the crown, in consequence of their frequent real or pretended acts of rebellion; and by the feudal exactions in the shape of reliefs and aids. By these changes the power of the great barons was considerably lessened, and the sovereign, either in the reign of John, or in that of his son and successor, Henry III., began to acquire and exercise a discretionary power, in calling only such of his subjects to the Great Council, as he thought fit to summon, and in whose fidelity he could repose confidence. So now the great council of the state consisted of two parties, those who were tenants *per baroniam*, in whom the king could confide, and others not holding *per baroniam*, but yet summoned at the king's pleasure, and by a writ similar to that addressed to the tenants so holding. These were called the greater barons. In consequence of the power thus assumed and used by the sovereign, the dignity of the peerage became personal, and ceased to be what it had hitherto been since the Conquest, territorial. And it appears that subsequently to the twenty-third year of Edward I., the simple tenure of lands, as a tenant in chief of the king, did not confer upon the holder an absolute right, in defiance of the wish or will of the sovereign, to sit in Parliament.‡

Besides this, another and a most important addition was about this time made to the representatives of the nation in the great council. Historians agree that when Henry III. fell a prisoner into the hands of the barons, after the battle of Lewes in 1264, the Earl of Leicester called a parliament in the king's name at Winchester, which two knights for each county, two citizens for each city, and two burgesses for each borough, were summoned to attend. And Edward I., in his writ to the boroughs to return members to parliament, says, in the preamble, "It is a most equitable rule, that what concerns all, should be approved by all,—and

* Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 125.
† Courthope's Historic Peerage, under Mowbray.
‡ *Vide* Courthope's Historic Peerage, pp. 19 and 25.

common dangers repelled by united efforts." Although it is clear that the embryo of the present House of Commons was thus formed, still we must not suppose that the representatives of the people possessed much, or even any power: the only matter to which their attention was at this time directed, was the making grants of money to the king, or rather perhaps it should be said, the giving their consent to such grants as the king should demand. The value and importance, however, of the incorporating of these parts with the body politic, and their effect upon the gradually developing constitution of our country are too well known and appreciated to require comment.

Unfortunately there are few incidents of a strictly local character in connection with the Mowbrays chronicled by the pen of the historian. We have, however, a few memoranda shewing, at least, that Roger de Mowbray took some part in business matters connected with his manor of Melton. He, as lord of Melton, in the twenty-second year of "Edward the king," gave license to Robert Pesson, to let his tenements in a lane called Swines' Lane, without challenge or letting of him or his heirs; and he also granted to the same Robert Pesson to enlarge his place in Melton four feet one way, and four feet another, he yielding and paying annually to him and his heirs one halfpenny of silver in acknowledgment. Roger de Mowbray also gave to William Fullour of Melton, clerk, a place next the Backhouse of Lord Delawarr; and he granted to William Prest of Melton, a messuage situate in the Market Place there.*

On the 23rd of August, in the year 1297, Roger de Mowbray accompanied Edward I. in his expedition into Flanders; and the following year being in Ghent (probably in the retinue of the king, who remained in that city for some time subsequently to concluding a truce with Philip of France), he died there. His remains were brought over to England, and deposited in the Abbey of Fountains,† which abbey had, it will be remembered, been enriched by the liberality of his ancestor. Doubtless the solemn requiem for the soul of this the eighth lord of Melton after the Conquest, often rose in magnificent fulness, and again died away in plaintive and soul-touching cadence, within the walls of this his bodily resting place.

By his wife Rose, daughter of Richard, Earl of Clare, Roger left a son named John, who was born on the 2nd of November, 1286, and whose wardship and marriage was, upon the death of his father, given to William de Brewes of Gower in Wales, with the intent that he should marry Aliva, or Alice, de Brewes, the daughter of his guardian. This marriage was solemnized before John de Mowbray was of age. His wife, Aliva, afterwards became one of the co-heirs of her father.‡

* Nichols' History of Leicestershire, under Melton.

† Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 126. ‡ Dugdale's Bar., vol. i. p. 126.

When John de Mowbray reached the twentieth year of his age,* Edward I. was fast sinking into the grave. His energetic and enterprising spirit was nevertheless yet strong within him. The last king of Wales had fallen dead on the field of battle, and that country had been annexed to the English crown, and admitted to the more important of the English institutions. Scotland which, upon the death of Alexander III. and his infant daughter, had by internal dissensions and external force, been led to acknowledge Edward's feudal sovereignty, and to refer the claims of the rival competitors for her throne to his decision, did not fall so readily into the course marked out for her by that politic and far-seeing monarch. Baliol, who had been declared by Edward the rightful heir to the crown, soon renounced his fealty and homage, and after him Wallace dared to assert the independence of his country; but both eventually succumbed to the strong arm of the English king. Then Scotland was apparently Edward's own; but soon another disturber of his peace appeared in the person of Robert Bruce, who was crowned king of Scotland in 1306. This event and this date again bring John de Mowbray before us.

Edward being naturally afraid that after all his past efforts to incorporate Scotland with his own country, he should, at the close of his life, see her again assert her national freedom, and successfully oppose his claims, under the leadership of her new king, determined to raise an army which should overwhelm all resistance, an army which for rank and magnificence had probably never been equalled by any which had crossed the borders.

To provide this force, and to engage the hearts of his subjects in the expedition, Edward caused it to be proclaimed through England "that all who were under legal obligation to become knights, and had competent means, should assemble in Westminster at Whitsuntide, and that they would be there furnished with every requisite from the king's wardrobe, excepting the trappings of their horses. Three hundred youths, the sons of earls, barons, and knights," among whom was John de Mowbray, then in his twentieth year, "attended, and purple robes, fine linen garments, and mantles woven with gold, were liberally distributed. The royal palace, though spacious, was not sufficient to hold the vast crowds who poured in; and the Temple and its gardens were also appropriated to entertain them. Its apple trees were cut down, its walls laid prostrate, and tents and booths were erected, in which the young knights appeared in their dresses glittering with gold. Every knight, as many as the Temple church would hold, performed his vigils in it. But the Prince of Wales, by his father's command, passed his vigils in the Abbey of Westminster. There, such was the clangour of the trumpets and

* He had previously been engaged in public matters

clarions, such the emulous acclamations, that the chanting of the choir was drowned in the general exultation. On the following day, the king invested his son with the military belt, and gave him the duchy of Aquitaine. The prince went with his new honours to the abbey, to confer the same dignity upon his associates; but so great was the pressure towards the high altar, to behold the ceremony, that two knights were killed, and many fainted, though each had at least three others to conduct and defend him. The crowd being at length repressed and divided by strong war horses, the prince was enabled to knight his friends."* It was upon the occasion of this grand military assemblage that John de Mowbray was invested with the order of knighthood.†

As a reward for having attended with horse and arms in this Scotch expedition, John de Mowbray, in the same year, though he was then a minor, had possession or livery of the lands of his wife Aliva.

In 1307, John de Mowbray was still in Scotland, and doubtless was in the company of Edward I., when that monarch, impatient to execute his meditated revenge upon Bruce and his followers, and attempting to perform more than his exhausted frame could bear, sank into the arms of death at Burgh-on-the-Sands, on the 7th of July, 1307.

The conduct and character of his successor, Edward II., forms a dark and gloomy picture after viewing the energetic and wise policy usually adopted by the late king. The reputation of Edward I. as a warrior, and as a statesman, was firmly established, on the one hand, by the entire subjugation of Wales, and by his repeated successes in Scotland, and on the other, by his (amongst other things) passing the famous statute of Mortmain. The father, to use the words of Sharon Turner, "left a reputation which always at first, sanctifies the son, ... everything combined to surround Edward II. with glory, and to promise a reign of peculiar felicity . . . . Love, honour, and happiness seemed to be his natural inheritance: contempt, degradation, and misery became his lot." John de Mowbray was summoned to the parliament held at Northampton, on the 13th of October, in the first year of Edward II. (1307), and after the magnificent marriage of that king to Isabella of France, the lord of Melton was summoned to attend his coronation, which took place at Westminster on the 24th February, 1308. He also attended (or was cited to) other parliaments held during that year, and receiving the thanks of the king for his fidelity, was requested to continue his military services until the ensuing feast of S. Peter ad Vincula—the 1st of August. After

* Matthew of Westminster, Bohn's ed., vol. ii., p. 586, clothed in the language of S. Turner, Hist. Eng. vol. ii., p. 77.

† Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 126.

being cited to several subsequent parliaments (including one held at Stamford in 1309), summoned to join in various expeditions against the Scots—he having been appointed one of the chief commanders of Scotland*—we find that in the fifth year of Edward II. doing his homage for those lands which were of Maud his grandmother's inheritance (and which had been held by her second husband, then dead, during his lifetime), entered upon the full possession of those estates.†

The manner in which Edward II. allowed himself to be influenced by his favourites, and the weakness displayed in the selection of them, are facts of which every reader of English history is cognizant. One of the last injunctions of the dying king, Edward I., to his son was—never to recall Piers Gaveston, who had been banished the kingdom on account of the bad influence exerted by him over the prince. Almost the first act of the young king was to disgust his best friends by recalling that noxious personage, and by making him his chief confidant and adviser. Without following the fortunes of Gaveston, suffice it to say that the incensed barons having twice caused him to be expatriated, and he having twice not returned only, but been received with open arms by the infatuated king, it was determined to effect the downfal of the favourite, and to free the kingdom from the ill-adviser of its sovereign. To effect this, Thomas, Earl of Lancaster and Leicester, proclaimed a tournament as an excuse for his friends assembling fully armed, and Gaveston was formally excommunicated by the Archbishop of Canterbury. After many attempts made by the king to save his life, Gaveston was at length taken prisoner in Scarborough Castle by the barons, and soon after executed, or rather murdered, by command of the Earl of Warwick. The death of his favourite under such circumstances naturally excited the king's indignation. He commanded John de Mowbray —then sheriff of Yorkshire, and governor of the city of York— to seize Henry de Percy, because he had allowed Piers Gaveston to depart from Scarborough Castle, of which he, Percy, was then governor, and in which he had undertaken the favourite should be safely detained.‡ What the result of this expedition by the lord of Melton was we do not learn; it is however probable that the reconciliation which was about that time effected between the king and his barons terminated this and similar ebullitions of the king's anger and revenge.

Respecting John de Mowbray I have collected a great mass of information relating to the leading events of his life; most of those events were military ones, and although every writ he received and every expedition he undertook may be valuable to the student of the history of those times, still the facts themselves are too dry in

* Parl Writs. † Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 126.
‡ Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 126.

detail, and do not assist the portraiture of the chief actor sufficiently, to render it desirable to bring them before you in these papers. We must hasten on to the more important transactions of John de Mowbray's life which the chroniclers bring before us.

Thus far John de Mowbray appears to have been a firm adherent of Edward II. In the various disputes between that king and his barons respecting Gaveston, the ninth lord of Melton, as far as the records of his life attest, apparently stood aloof or was too much engaged upon the northern frontier, to attend to the more internal and political dissensions then agitating the minds of the people. Indeed we find, as I have already mentioned, that he received an especial mark of the king's confidence and esteem when Edward, in 1306, thanked him for his fidelity, and requested him to continue stationed in the garrison in which he then was. And the fact that he was employed by the king to seize Percy for allowing Gaveston to fall into the hands of his enemies, supports the idea that he had not at that time leagued himself with the discontented barons. A change however took place in the conduct of John de Mowbray when Hugh Spencer, who gained as much influence over the king as Gaveston had once possessed, came into personal contact with him, which he did under the following rather curious circumstances.

It will be remembered that John de Mowbray married Aliva, daughter of William de Brewes. This William de Brewes appears to have been a man, who by a rough and passionate temper, and by impetuous and hasty actions, was frequently involved in disputes with others, which brought out so many dark traits in his disposition as to leave, in the occasional glimpses we obtain of him, a character by no means creditable to himself, or one likely to secure the esteem or confidence of those with whom he came in contact. Thus, towards the end of the reign of Edward I., Roger de Hecham, a baron of the exchequer, made a complaint to the king in council of gross and upbraiding language having been contemptuously addressed to him by William de Brewes, because of his judgment in favour of the delinquent's adversary. Such contempt and disrespect towards as well the king's ministers as himself, or his courts, being very odious to the king, William de Brewes was adjudged to go in full court in Westminster Hall, and ask pardon of the judge whom he had insulted; and for the contempt done to the king and his court was then to stand committed to the Tower, there to remain during the king's pleasure.* He is also described as having been a "gret wastoure of good,"† that is, he was extravagant in his mode of living, indeed so extravagant that his sense of justice and even of common honesty appear to have been considerably blunted, as is evidenced by the extraordinary method in which he

* Abbreviatio Placitorum lib. impres., p. 257, quoted in Choice Notes from Notes and Queries, "History," p. 73.

† Capgrave's Chron., p. 186.

negotiated the sale of certain of his lands; which transaction brings us to the collision between John de Mowbray and Hugh Spencer, the king's chamberlain, already alluded to.

William de Brewes possessed a barony in the Marches of Wales called Gower-land, which he wished to sell. His notions as to the relative rights of buyer and seller were somewhat peculiar, for having in the first instance sold the property to Humfrey, Earl of Hereford, he again sold it (and took the money) to the two Roger Mortimers (uncle and nephew), who knew nothing of a former sale. John de Mowbray then also (1319) put in the claim of his wife, as heir unto William de Brewes her father, and challenged the barony as hers by the right of inheritance. The matter now appeared sufficiently complicated, but to make it even more so, "last of alle and werst," as the chronicler, Capgrave, observes, Hugh Spencer the younger, desiring this land on account of its proximity to some of his estates, Brewes effected another sale thereof to him, which sale, because Spencer was the king's chamberlain and favourite, was licensed, and he took possession of the lands. These proceedings of William de Brewes,* and Hugh de Spencer, excited great indignation, especially against the latter; and the Earl of Hereford, the first purchaser of the lands, complained unto Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, who with him persuaded many other barons to adopt their cause. These chiefs armed themselves, and assembling at Sherborne, swore to drive the Spencers from their influential position near the king, "come hem lyf, or come hem deth." They did not, however, upon this occasion effect their purpose, for John de Mowbray and the other barons, excepting the Earls of Lancaster and Hereford, consented that certain arrangements should be made and yielded to the king. Soon after which the lord of Melton, by injunction dated Westminster the 30th of January, 1321, was warned not to attend any illegal or treasonable convention or assembly; and again by writ dated at Bristol on the 21st of the April following, he was requested by the king to co-operate in appeasing the disturbances then existing, and again warned not to attend any illegal confederacies or assemblies. This advice John de Mowbray did not think well to follow, but joined the barons in their great assembly at St. Albans: from whence a deputation consisting of the Bishops of London, Salisbury, Ely, Hereford, and Chichester, was sent to the king, desiring that the two Spencers should be banished the realm as traitors. The king demurring to this request the barons marched at once to London and occupied the suburbs of the city. Edward was then induced to grant their wish, so Humfrey, Earl of Hereford —no doubt with feelings of considerable satisfaction—with his own voice proclaimed in Westminster Hall, that Hugh Spencer the

* This surname Brewes or "Braose," according to Mr. M. A. Lower (*English Surnames*, 1849), is now corrupted into *Brewhouse!*

elder was a traitor, his son Hugh the younger at the same time being banished the kingdom. It was furthermore stipulated on the part of the barons that their rising should be pardoned, because it was done "for the common profite." In order to secure this pardon a parliament was summoned to meet at Westminster three weeks after the feast of S. John the Baptist, that is, on the 15th of July, 1321.

Soon after which John de Mowbray, pursuant to an ordinance then passed, received letters patent in which he was described as one of the great men who had confederated against the De Spencers, and obtained a pardon for all homicides, robberies, felonies, trespasses, etc., committed in the late disturbances. Similar pardons were also, upon his testimony, issued to forty-three of his followers.

The barons did not hold their power long. Isabella the queen purposing to make a pilgrimage to Canterbury—probably to pay her devotions at the shrine of the so-called "blessed St. Thomas," sent her purveyors in advance to the castle of Leeds in Kent, to convey an intimation to the officer in command, of her wish to rest there on her way. The castle of Leeds at that time belonged to Bartholomew de Badlesmere, one of the barons associated for purposes of common defence against the king. Upon the arrival of the queen's messengers, Colpeper, the commanding officer,—Badlesmere himself does not appear to have then been in residence—refused them admittance, suspecting probably that a trap was being laid by the king to gain possession of the fortress, in which were then residing the wife and children of its chief, and where much treasure was deposited. This behaviour excited the indignation of the haughty queen. She complained to Badlesmere, who thereupon was so bold and ungallant as to send her an insolent letter, approving of the conduct of his officer in command at Leeds. Upon the return of the queen she naturally informed the king of the treatment she had received. He raised an army, and inflicted summary punishment, not only upon the over cautious Colpeper, whom he hanged, but upon the other residents and defenders of the castle; the treasure, as may be supposed, went into the king's exchequer. Edward now feeling powerful again, recalled the younger De Spencer, who during his banishment had followed the not very reputable calling of a pirate, turning his attention more particularly to the plunder of English vessels. Upon his arrival he counselled the king to send writs to all the sheriffs in England, commanding them to raise sufficient troops to fight against those of his subjects who had conspired against him. The associated barons now saw a storm gathering around them, and Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, convened a meeting of the "Good Peers" as they were termed, at Doncaster, on the 29th of November then next (1321), against attending which John de Mowbray was warned

by a writ from the king.* Edward had concerted his measures and carried out his plans with such prudence and alacrity, that he was now in the centre of the kingdom, with a powerful army, ready to fall upon the first of his turbulent subjects who should venture to dispute his authority. This induced many of the barons to throw themselves upon the clemency of their sovereign. In consequence of these defections and of the death and imprisonment of many of his adherents, the Earl of Lancaster saw his army considerably weakened; indeed the only way in which he could hope to retrieve his fortunes, and still hold out against his king, was by soliciting the assistance of the Scots, who promised him aid if he would join them in Scotland, or on the borders. We find John de Mowbray, Roger de Clifford, and forty men-at-arms being about to repair, as they said to the Earl of Murray in Scotland, had letters of safe conduct granted to them by Edward on the 16th of February, 1322, and which letters were to remain in force until the 14th of March then next ensuing. It is not improbable that the license thus granted to the lord of Melton, was used by him, to cover a journey into Scotland, upon matters connected with certain secret negociations then being carried on between the Scots and the discontented barons. However that may have been, the king's forces and those under the Earl of Lancaster soon came into collision, for Edward hearing of the intended junction with the Scots, determined to prevent it by opposing the barons at the principal passes on their way.

John de Mowbray—for he had now finally cast in his lot among them,—and the other adherents of Thomas of Lancaster, having besieged the castle of Tickhill, first, in this last act, came into close neighbourhood with the king's forces at Burton-on-Trent. After spoiling by fire and sword the country through which they passed, and crossing the bridge over the Trent at that place, the barons were obliged to halt in order to dispute the passage of Edward's army which then closely pursued them The king did not, however, attempt the passage at that bridge, but retired to effect it elsewhere. John de Mowbray was now one of the most active of the discontented magnates. He was publicly declared a rebel—"Hue and Cry" was raised against him and his adherents throughout England, by writs addressed to all the sheriffs, &c., and special commissions were issued empowering the Earls of Kent and Surrey to pursue and arrest him. The Earl of Lancaster, as leader of the rebels, in the first instance intended holding his position at Burton, but altering his tactics he advanced to Boroughbridge in Yorkshire, where being obliged either to force the passage of the river Ure, held by Sir Andrew Harcla, the governor of Carlisle on behalf of the king, or to attack the forces of Edward

* Parl. Writs.

then close upon his rear, the barons preferred attempting the former, in which they signally failed. In the battle which took place there on Tuesday and Wednesday the 16th and 17th of March, 1322, the Earl of Hereford was slain, and Thomas Earl of Lancaster and Leicester, John de Mowbray, and many others fell prisoners into the hands of Sir Andrew.

The king and the two Spencers were staying at Pontefract. Thither John de Mowbray and the other prisoners were taken. On the third day after their arrival they were brought before their peers for trial. The lords who decided the fate of Mowbray and the other rebellious nobles, were Hugh de Spencer the elder, then, or shortly afterwards created Earl of Winchester,* Aymer, Earl of Pembroke, John Warren, Earl of Surrey, and Edmund, Earl of Arundel. John de Mowbray now stands charged with rebellion against his sovereign. Among his judges is the father of the man whose grasping covetousness first caused him to waver in his allegiance to his royal master. Will his past services be now forgotten? Will his military prowess exerted so often, will his wealth, his strength, so freely spent in the king's service in Scotland be altogether ignored, or at least banished from the account now to be brought against him? Surely not! But when we find that even the tie of blood does not save the Earl of Lancaster,† we tremble for the fate of the less favoured lord of Melton. Thomas of Lancaster had scarcely the form of a trial; he had no opportunity given him to make a defence. When judgment was pronounced against him, he exclaimed "shall I die without answer?" and was hurried away and beheaded, having little time allowed for his devotions. The fate of Lancaster was but too sure an index of that which awaited John de Mowbray. He was soon after removed to York and there hanged with several of his companions in arms; and so far did the vindictive feelings of the king and the Spencers carry them, that they would not allow the dead bodies to be taken down and buried for a long time after the execution.‡

Thus died John de Mowbray the ninth lord of Melton after the Conquest. A man who began life under what were then considered the brightest auspices, who fought the king's battles, and was rewarded with his favour and approbation, but who, turning his sword against the internal enemies of his country, the perverters of justice, and the seducers of his weak and pusillanimous king, fell a victim to his own, perhaps, injudicious impetuosity and the strength of his enemies, leaving a strange and vivid picture of the

* Capgrave styles him "Erl of Wynchest." Although he was not (according to Sir H. Nicholas) so created until the 10th of May following the battle of Boroughbridge.

† He was son of Edmund Plantaganet, second son of Henry III.

‡ Capgrave's Chron. of England, p. 186-190. Parl. Writs. Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 127.

uncertainty of worldy grandeur, and the fickleness of earthly favour and friendship.*

John de Mowbray being executed, his lands, including the lordship of Melton Mowbray, were seized by the king, and his wife and son imprisoned in the tower of London.† Having now traced the noble family of Mowbray from the date of their first possessing Melton, until that lordship under the circumstances just detailed fell into the hands of Edward the Second; having glanced at the spirit-stirring transactions in which they took so active a part; having watched their progress, step by step, in most of the great military operations and political changes which had taken place since the Conquest; having seen them for nearly three centuries holding good their position among the greatest magnates of the land: and finally having seen the representative of this ancient family executed as a rebel, and his wife and child cast into prison, the present era in the history of the Mowbrays, lords of Melton, appears a fitting one at which to close this our second paper upon that subject.

But in speaking of these early possessors of our town, it is almost necessary to refer to the recumbent effigy resting under an arch in the south asile of the nave of Melton church; which effigy is in the minds of so many connected with some "baron Mowbray," whom no one has yet identified, and respecting whom there appears considerable mystery. I had hoped to have laid before you, this evening, a tolerably complete examination of all the available evidence bearing upon the identity of this effigy. Circumstances preventing this, we must, for the present, content ourselves with what the effigy itself can tell us, and limit our examination almost entirely to its heraldic testimony.

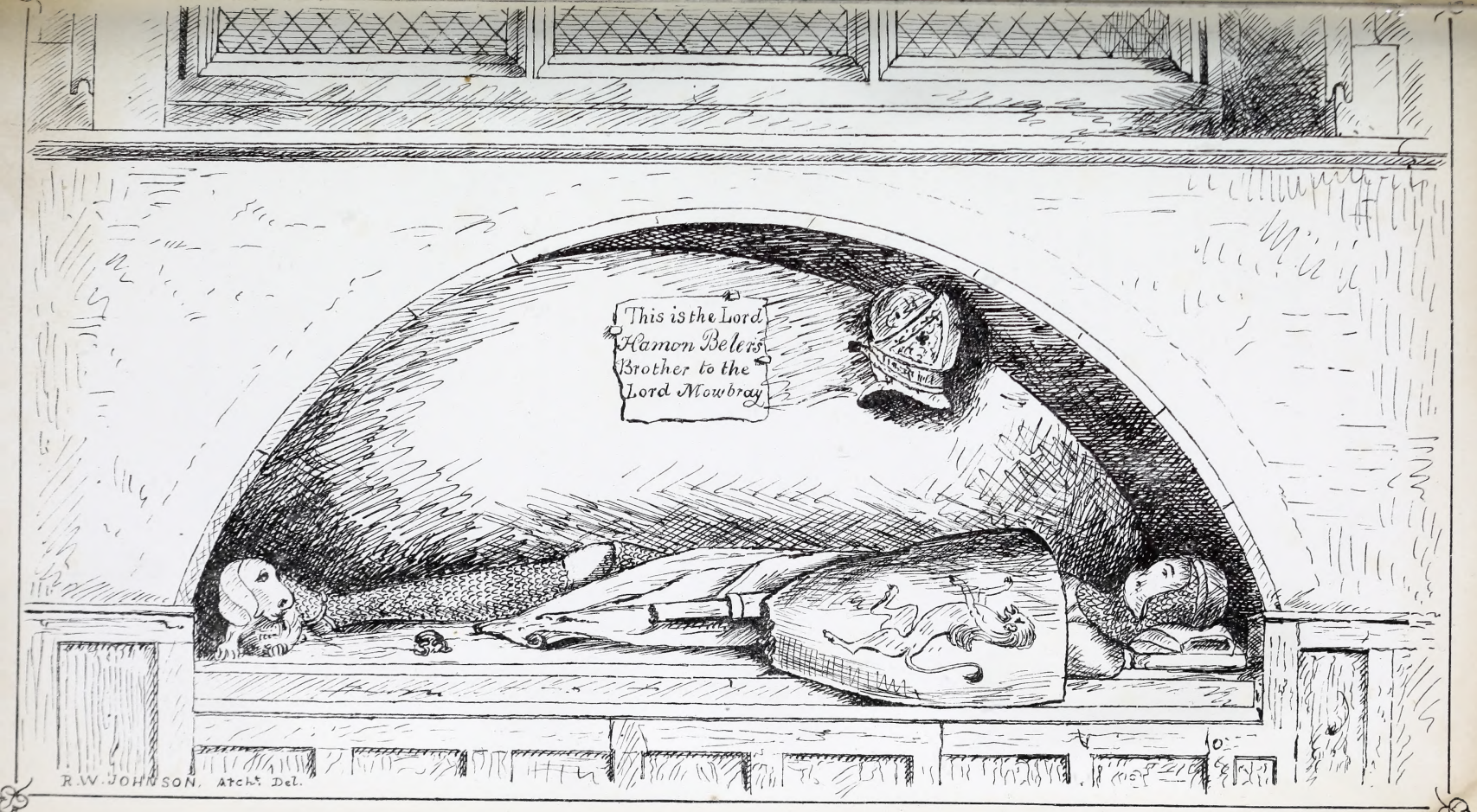
About the time John de Mowbray lived several additions and alterations appear to have been made to the present church of Melton. The south transept may be dated about 1290; the nave, arcades, and aisle windows, about 1310;‡ the chancel about 1320. It is found by consulting the armour as given by the sculptor, that

* John de Mowbray was in all probability the founder of the church of Shustoke in Warwickshire, dedicated to St. Cuthbert. Dugdale says (Warwickshire p. 740, Ed. 1765):

"The present fabric of this church was erected in King Edward the Second's time: . . . and therefore that portraiture in one of the north windows, of John, Lord Mowbray, kneeling before S. Cuthbert, must be of that John that was beheaded at York, for his adhering to Thomas Earl of Lancaster: which John being doubtless a great benefactor to that new structure, and bearing an extraordinary respect to S. Cuthbert, sometime Bishop of Duresme (whose fame for sanctity and miracles was very great in the northern parts, where the said Lord Mowbray's estate most lay), did upon the rebuilding thereof, honour him with the dedication." (Vide the engraving in Dugdale, p. 739.)

† Dugdale's Bar., vol. i., p. 126.

‡ From the extreme narrowness of the aisles, and from the existence of an Early English doorway in the south one, it is probable the *walls* belong to the Early English church.—Mr. Wing.



Tomb in the South Aisle of Saint Mary's Church Melton Mowbray.

COWELL'S ANASTATIC PRESS, IPSWICH.

the death of the personage whose recumbent figure is under consideration, took place during the reign of Edward I. or early in that of Edward II. It thus appears that this individual, whoever he was, lived during the time these alterations and additions to the church were made; and the peculiar position in which his effigy is placed—in a recess in the wall of the south aisle—goes very far to prove that he was the originator of the alterations then made in that portion of the edifice, or the chief benefactor under whose auspices the more elaborate architectural features were then introduced. Having thus connected the man with his work, the warrior with the edifice in which his effigy rests, the great difficulty is reached, namely, the production of proof as to whom the figure represents, to determine with some fair appearance at least of probability as to which of the mighty men of that warlike age we are indebted with respect to the beautiful fabric which has for so long a time been the heritage of the people of Melton. But this task will not be ours. The evidence will be rather negative than positive, will rather show who it does not represent than who it does, will rather aim at overthrowing a tolerably universal local theory, than at establishing a certain fact.

It is, I believe, allowed on all hands that the comparatively modern inscription and the helmet by its side are equally without claim to any true connection whatever with the recumbent figure beneath them. They are both anachronisms. The inscription is: "This is the lord Hamon Beler brother to the lord Mowbray."

It will be remembered that Nigel de Albini, the second lord of Melton after the Conquest, dying early in the twelfth century, left two sons, Roger who took the name of Mowbray, and Hamo the ancestor of the Belers: it is this Hamo, if we are to understand the word "brother" in the natural sense, who I presume is pointed to in this inscription—a man who died probably at least one hundred years before a stone of the present church was placed in its position! I think we may discard the inscription as being thus far incorrect.

The earliest mention I have met with of this effigy is the following extract from a Harleian MS. in the British Museum,*—"1583, June 8. At Melton church in com. Leicestr. there lieth one Bellers, who lieth cross-legged, armed all in mail, with his sword, and his shield upon his arm, whereon this coat is depicted in these colours,—per pale sable and gules, a lion rampant argent."

Again, Nichols referring to this figure says, quoting from the Visitation, 1681, in the College of Arms, "commonly called Mowbray but supposed to be Beler." And describing the effigy as it appeared in his day says, "in the south aisle . . . . . under a round arch is a cross-legged knight in a round helmet of mail with a band, his shield on his left arm bearing gules, a lion rampant

* 2017-84. Vide Nichols' Leicestershire, Framland Hundred, p. 262.

sable . . . ." etc. The arms at present borne upon this changeable shield are gules, a lion rampant argent. I may here intimate that the ancient family of Mowbray bore for their arms, gules, a lion rampant argent; and that of Beler, as a younger branch of the same family and holding lands under them, bore, as was then customary, the same arms differently tinctured; their shield showed per pale sable and gules, a lion rampant argent. It will be observed that in 1583 the shield is described as bearing, per pale sable and gules, a lion rampant argent; these were the arms of the Belers. In 1681 the officers from the College of Arms say, "commonly called Mowbray but supposed to be Beler." In 1795, when Nichols describes it, he says the shield bore, gules, a lion rampant sable, which appears to have been a coat anciently borne by the Belers in common with the one already ascribed to them,* and which coat was perhaps depicted upon the shield by advice of the College of Arms at their visitation in 1681. The present inscription from its style of lettering would be put up about the same time. It is only when we look at the present very modern tincturing of the shield that we find the arms of Mowbray given; it now says, gules, a lion rampant argent. Now, the heraldic testimony appears most strong against the supposition of this figure representing a Mowbray; added to which, if Dugdale may be trusted, we have direct evidence that none of that family up to the end of the reign of Edward III. and even much later, were interred in Melton Church; for the places of sepulture of the whole of them (I mean, of course, the lords of Melton) are given; and although instances are known in which a duplicate effigy, a kind of complimentary memorial, of a departed benefactor was erected in a church towards the building of which he had largely contributed, but in which he was not interred, still the instances are so few that we are not, I think, justified in supposing that this effigy is an exception to the general rule, that where you find a recumbent figure of the date of the one now under notice, you may safely infer that the remains of the person represented were deposited beneath the sculpture. Who the figure really represents—whether the Hamo Beler who, according to the pedigree in Nichols, died in 1304, lies under his grim representative in the south aisle of our church we must not now enquire. We may however call to remembrance the fact that this aisle was formerly appropriated to Eye-Kettleby,—the lords whereof were the Belers—and that connections of that family were interred in Melton Church in the fifteenth century. Added to which we find that in 1622 the arms of Beler were still in existence in the windows of Melton Church as well as those of Mowbray,† the fair inference from which is that both families were

* See Nichols' description of Ralph, lord Beler, as depicted in a pedigree of the Villiers' family; Framland Hundred.

† Burton's Leicestershire, edition 1622.

benefactors to the edifice: there are also strong reasons for supposing that the Belers were intimately connected with the town of Melton during the middle ages; and when afterwards the manor of Eye-Kettleby passed into the hands of the Digbys, we find members of that family using the south aisle of our church as their place of burial. The epitaph of Sir John Digby who died in 1553, and of his two wives, was a few years ago in existence.

After this, I fear, tedious consideration of the evidence relative to this recumbent effigy, I think the conclusions arrived at are these: that a Mowbray is not interred beneath; that the heraldic testimony and the few facts I have mentioned tend to shew that a Beler reposes under, and is represented by, the armed figure which has rested undisturbed in grim and silent repose through the changes and evolutions of more than five centuries. Still the question is an open one.

Some apology is perhaps necessary for not completing these sketches of the Mowbray family in two papers. My chief reason for not doing so has been the wish rather to give short papers interspersed with national incidents, and glimpses of the gradual rise of our country to the height of civilization and true liberty—in fact rather to make these lords of Melton tell their own history of the times in which they lived, than to compress a mass of facts into a dry biography of individual men.

Should an opportunity occur, at some future time, of tracing the career of this family until its extinction in the direct line, in the time of Edward IV., we shall find the subject full of almost romantic interest, and it would, I think, compensate for the, I fear, dry paper I have this evening inflicted upon you.

This Paper, the Mowbrays, lords of Melton, part II., closed the series delivered in the Corn Exchange, Melton Mowbray. The record of the ordinary meetings, &c. of the Society is now resumed.

December 27th, 1858.

THE REV. ROBERT BURNABY in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN exhibited a silver penny of Alexander the Third, king of Scotland from 1245 to 1285, sent by Mr. Thompson. On the obverse were the words ALEXANDER DEI GRA, X, in Lombardic characters, with a crowned head in profile, and sceptre in front. The reverse was divided by a cross into four parts, and in each of these was a mullet. The legend was REX SCOTORUM. Humphrey

says "the silver penny was the only Scottish coin until Edward I. of England, during his temporary subjugation of the country, coined halfpence and farthings."* He also says the coins of "Alexander I., David I., and Alexander II. have all names of moneyers on the reverse. Alexander III. and David II. have REX SCOTORUM."† In the year 1259, the king of Scotland, and his wife, Margaret, the daughter of Henry III. (the reigning monarch of this country at that date), visited England. Their way to the metropolis would probably lie through Leicester, and by the road to Welford. The coin produced was found in a garden allotment, a mile and a half beyond Leicester, on the right hand side of the Welford Road.

THE REV. J. M. GRESLEY exhibited a small silver box, having the lid ornamented with beautifully cut scroll-work, and containing thirty-three engraved silver jettons of English sovereigns by Crispin de Passe. These have on the obverse the effigies and names of the kings and queens, and the date of their death; and on the reverse their shield of arms, how long they reigned, and where they were buried. This series commences with Edward the Confessor, and ends with Charles I. It is deficient of William II., Edward I., II., III., and Henry VII. Besides the kings and queens of England, there are jettons of Mary, Queen of Scots, and of her second husband, Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley, father of James I.; of Henry, his eldest son; of James I., and his son Charles, on the reverse; two of Charles I. and Henrietta Maria; of Elizabeth, eldest daughter of James I., and of her husband Frederick, King of Bohemia; of Charles Lewis, their second son; of Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden, and of Lienora, his Queen; and of Gustavus Adolphus only, with the date 1632. A box of these jettons is thus described among the antique jewellery in the illustrated catalogue of the Bernal Collection, sold by auction in March and April, 1855:—"A silver-gilt box, chased and perforated, with profile busts of Charles I. and Henrietta Maria, in relief, containing thirty-three silver jettons, engraved with the Sovereigns of England, dates, arms, &c., commencing with Edward the Confessor, and ending with Charles, Prince of Wales, 1630. It is remarkable that the effigy of Elizabeth is omitted, though there is one of Maria, mother of James I.; there are jettons of James the First's other children, Elizabeth of Bohemia, and Henry. £16. 5s. 6d., *Duke of Hamilton.*" Mr. Gresley said that the box of jettons he exhibited came into his family from the Vincents of Shepey, and he had reason to believe that it had formerly belonged to Edward Reynolds, the first Bishop of Norwich after the Restoration.

Another jetton, exhibited by Mr. Gresley, had a picture of the Nativity engraved on one side, and the legend "Behold I bring you tidings of joy, born unto you a Saviour:" and on the other,

* Vol ii., p. 504, Bohn's Ed. † Ibid, p. 505.

the Crucifixion, with S. Mary and S. John, and round it, "Behold the Sonn of God, which taketh away the sinns of the world."

Mr. T. Nevinson exhibited a panel of sandal wood, which had originally formed the lid of a desk. Upon it is drawn, with some sort of acid perhaps, a picture of the crucifixion of our Lord, on one side of whom is the crucifixion of the penitent thief, attended upon by the holy angels, and on the other, his companion, with an evil spirit at his head. S. Mary, Longinus with his spear, and a multitude of people are below. A border above the large picture represented the Annunciation, the Nativity, the Flight into Egypt, and the Baptism of our Lord. At either end are SS. Matthew and John, with their respective emblems, the Angel and the Eagle. Mr. Nevinson stated that he had grounds for thinking it came from Ulverscroft Priory. The date of it appeared to be the sixteenth century. Upon the dress of one of the soldiers is probably the mark of the artist.—O.

S R M

Mr. Neale exhibited a beautifully executed ivory carving of the Triumph of Neptune, probably of the early part of the last century.

Mr. Phillips, of Kibworth, exhibited, among other typographical curiosities, a folio copy of the New Testament, with the commentary of S. Jerome. This volume, which was deficient of the first page, was a beautiful example of the art of printing in the fifteenth century. The initial letters were filled in by the hand in colours. It had originally been attached to a desk by a chain.

Mr. Phillips also exhibited a MS. Journal of the proceedings of the House of Lords, beginning April 25th, and ending December 29th, 12 Car. II. It contains lists of the members present, the resolutions passed, &c. A member of Mr. Phillips' family was of the Privy Council of that king, and of Charles I., and probably the book had descended from him to the present possessor.

The Rev. E. W. Woodcock exhibited a rubbing of the monumental brass in Newton Church, Northamptonshire, A.D., 1400. A cross rises between the kneeling figures of a civilian and his wife; and within a quarterfoil at the head of it is enclosed a figure of S. Faith, crowned with a nimbus, and holding a sword and a gridiron, the instruments of her martyrdom. The field on which this beautiful figure is placed is diapered, and in two lateral foils are the words (contracted) *Sancta Fides—Virgo et Martyr.* Another brass exhibited by Mr. Woodcock, was that of Thomas Goodrich, Bishop of Ely from 1534 until his death on the 10th of May, 1554. This effigy affords a good example of the costume of the Episcopal order of that period, and is remarkable for the combination of Gothic and Renaissance ornament which it exhibits. The Bishop holds in his right hand a Bible, perhaps in allusion to

his having been one of the translators; the gospel by S. John being attributed to him. He has also hanging from the same hand the great seal, significant of his office as Chancellor, which he held under Edward VI.

Mr. G. C. Bellairs exhibited two small brass Roman coins, recently found at Goadby Marwood. 1. Obverse, CONSTANTINVS. P. F. AVG., and the bust of the Emperor; reverse, SOLI INVICTO . . . . ., and a figure of the sun. 2. Obverse, IMP. C. M. AVR. PROBVS AVG, and bust; reverse, SPES AVG, and a figure standing. The former of these was found in the churchyard.

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley read the following paper:—

With the Restoration of King Charles the Second, the Prayer Book of the Church of England came again into use. Endeavours were made to form a union between the Church, which was now restored, and the Dissenters, who had been established in its place during the Great Rebellion. For this purpose the king issued a commission to an equal number of divines of both parties, "to advise upon and review the Book of Common Prayer," &c. The conference held in pursuance of this commission is known as the Savoy Conference. It was first held on the 15th of April, 1661, and terminated on the 24th of July following. Union however was found to be unattainable. To state the case in the most favourable way, the episcopal divines could not conscientiously acquiesce in the concessions which the Dissenters conscientiously required. It remained, therefore, for the divines of the Church of England to make only such alterations in the Prayer Book as should seem to them desirable, independently of other parties, consequently, on the 21st of November following, the Upper House of the Convocation of Canterbury appointed, under royal license, a committee, to proceed without loss of time to a revision of it, and on the 20th of December the new book was adopted and subscribed by the clergy of both houses of Convocation, and of both Provinces. On the 25th of February, 1662, the House of Lords received, together with a royal message, an authentic copy of the corrected book confirmed under the great seal. The Act of Uniformity, which directed that it should be accepted and used throughout England, was passed by the Lords on the 9th, and by the Commons on the 16th of April.

The original MS. of the book of Common Prayer, which was annexed to this Act, is not now to be found among the parliamentary records. It is said to have been seen among them, but detached from the Statute Roll, in 1819, and again about 1834

(*Stephens' Book of Common Prayer, etc.*, vol. i., p. clxxiv). I cannot, however, help being sceptical as to the accuracy of these statements, for I find a writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, of December, 1802, p. 1105, speaking of "the original Convocation book with the autograph" as being *then* "not to be found," but "only a large paper copy of the edition of 1636, with the preface 'It hath been the wisdom' etc., with a calendar, additional prayers and thanksgivings, all in MS."

But although the MS. originally annexed to the Act of Uniformity, cannot now be produced, there is a clause in the Act which renders certain copies of the first *printed* books of equal authority with the MS. itself: "And to the end that the true and perfect copies of this Act, and the said Book hereunto annexed may be safely kept, and perpetually preserved, and for the avoiding of all disputes for the time to come; Be it therefore Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the respective Deans and Chapters of every Cathedral, or Collegiate Church, within England and Wales shall at their proper costs and charges, before the twenty-fifth day of December, One thousand six hundred sixty and two, obtain under the Great Seal of England a true and perfect printed Copy of this Act, and of the said Book annexed hereunto, to be by the said Deans and Chapters, and their successors, kept and preserved in safety for ever, and to be also produced, and shewed forth in any Court of Record, as often as they shall be thereunto lawfully required; And also there shall be delivered true and perfect Copies of this Act, and of the same Book unto the respective Courts at Westminster, and into the Tower of London, to be kept and preserved for ever among the Records of the said Courts, and the Records of the Tower, to be also produced and shewed forth in any Court as need shall require; which said Books so to be exemplified under the Great Seal of England, shall be examined by such persons as the King's Majesty shall appoint under the Great Seal of England for that purpose, and shall be compared with the Original Book hereunto annexed, and shall have power to correct, and amend in writing any Error committed by the Printer in the Printing of the same Book, or of anything therein contained, and shall certifie in writing under their Hands and Seals, or the Hands and Seals of any Three of them at the end of the same Book, that they have examined and compared the same Book, and find it to be a true and perfect Copy; which said Books, and every one of them so exemplified under the Great Seal of England, as aforesaid, shall be deemed, taken, adjudged, and expounded to be good and available in the Law to all intents and purposes whatsoever, and shall be accounted as good Records as this Book it self hereunto annexed; Any Law or Custom to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding."

The corrected books thus authorised are known as the "Sealed

Books." The copy deposited in the Tower of London was reprinted in 1848, by Mr. Masters; that for the Chancery in 1849, in three volumes, by the Ecclesiastical History Society, under the editorship of A. J. Stephens, barrister-at-law, who collated it with the Sealed Books for the King's Bench, Common Pleas, Exchequer, St. Paul's, Christ Church, Ely, and the Tower, and also with the MS. book annexed to the Transmiss of the Irish Act of Uniformity, passed in 1666.

As each of the Sealed Books is deserving of special attention, I have recently examined the copy deposited in the custody of the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield, which I think has not hitherto been described.

The volume is bound in rough calf, and has the words LICHFIELD BOOK stamped on one side near the top. The leaves are 15⅞ inches tall by 9⅞ wide. The text has a "meadow of margin" of three inches at the fore-edge. The worm has rather damaged some of the early leaves. After three fly-leaves comes the engraved title by Loggan; then a loose leaf, A 2, containing "The Contents of this Book." Four loose leaves also precede the Morning Prayer, which were evidently pasted in when the book was bound. There is a similar leaf, D 3, before that containing "A Prayer that may be used," &c. On comparing this book with Mr. Stephens' collation of the Chancery Book, their similarity is evident; excepting that in the Lichfield Book the sheet C of six leaves is followed by D, D 2, D 3, two unmarked leaves, and then the four which have been inserted and are unmarked. The paper of the Lichfield Book is remarkably good, and in better condition than that for the Chancery.

At the foot of the last printed page of the book, which concludes with the Ordinal, the commissioners who examined it have written "The Formes of Prayer for the V. of November, the XXX. of January, and for the XXIX. of May, are to be printed at the end of this Booke." They are not, however, added. Then follow (loose, but stitched together with the same kind of green silk as the volume is stitched with,) six printed and two unprinted pages. The first of these contains "The declaration of the Archbishop and Bishops of the Province of Canterbury that they have in Synod received, and approved, this book of Public Prayers, and have subscribed the same on the 20th day of Dec., A. 1661." The Archbishop's and eighteen Bishops' names follow.

The second page has the declaration of the Lower House of the Province that they have on the same day unanimously consented and subscribed to the said book. The names of Henry Firn, Dean of Ely and Prolocutor, and of fourteen other Deans, and of William Thomas, the Precentor of St. David's, follow.

The third and fourth pages have the names of George Hall, Dean of Canterbury, and of thirty Archdeacons, twenty-three

Proctors of diocesan clergy, and sixteen Proctors of the Cathedral Chapters, in continuation of the list on page two.

The fifth page contains a declaration of the Archbishop and Bishops of the Province of York, similar to that made by the Archbishop and Bishops of the Province of Canterbury, and on the same day. The names of the Archbishop and of the Bishops of Durham and Carlisle are subscribed.

On page six is the declaration of consent and subscription of the clergy of the Lower House of the same Province, followed by six names, but whether Deans, Archdeacons, or Proctors, is not stated, viz., Henr. Fern, Jo. Barwick, Rob. Hitch, Matt. Smalwood, Humphredus Lloyd, And. Sandeland.

At the foot of the letterpress on this page are written the first thirteen lines of the following certificate, and below them are the signatures and seals of the first three commissioners.

On page seven is the concluding portion of the certificate, followed by the signatures and seals of the last four commissioners.

The eighth page is blank.

"We whose names are heer under written Commissioners amongst others appointed by our Soveraigne Lord Charles the Second by the Grace of God King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith &c by his Highness Letters Patents under the Great Seale of England bearing date the first day of November in the fourteenth year of his Raigne in pursuance of a certaine Act made in the Parliament begun and held at Westminster the eighth day of May in the thirteenth year of the Raigne of our said Soveraigne Lord King Charles the Second, and there continued untill the nineteenth day of May in the fourteenth year of his said Majesties Raigne, and thence prorogued to the eighteenth of February then next following entituled An Act for the Uniformity of Publick Prayers and Administration of Sacraments and other Rites and Ceremonies, and for Establishing the Form of Making, Ordaining and Consecrating Bishops, Priests and Deacons in the Church of England, do Certifie that we have Examined and Compared this Book with the Originall and we find it a true and perfect Copie. In witness whereof we have heer unto set our Hands and Seales this thirteenth day of December in the fourteenth year of the Raigne of our said Soveraigne Lord King Charles the Second and in the year of our Lord Christ 1662.

"Jos. Henshaw, Dec. Cicestr: Rich: Chaworth, Gulielmus Paule, Dec. Lichfeild, Will: Brabourne, Mar. Frank, Archid. S. Alb., Geo. Stradling, Jo. Pritchett.

[Of these signatures, and of the seals which accompany them Mr. Gresley exhibited a print.] The exemplification is suspended from the bottom of the back of the volume. The ends of the lengths of green silk with which the sheets were stitched for binding are there plaited together into a band three quarters of an inch wide, which is passed through the foot of the parchment, and then has the Great Seal of England upon it. Below the Seal the silk band terminates in five tassels. The seal, which is of yellow wax, is preserved in a tin box. With the exception of three pieces chipped off the legend, the whole of it still remains, but cracked into four parts which have been skilfully united. The engraved heading to the exemplification contains a portrait of King Charles II., "Ætatis suæ 30 A°. 1660." the Royal arms, English and Scottish crowns, roses and thistles, &c.

The exemplification recites that portion of the Act of Uniformity before quoted, and concludes thus:—

"Now know yee that Wee; according to the forme and effect of the said Act of Parliament, and in accomplishment of the intent thereof in this behalfe, have inspected the said examined copy of the said Act of Parliament and Booke aforesaid, and have caused the same to bee hereunto annexed, and to be exemplified vnder the great Seale of England, att the request and proper costs and charges of the Deane and Chapter of St. Chad in Litchfeild. In witnes whereof Wee have caused these our letters to be made Patents. Witness ourselfe att Westminster, the ffifth day of January, in the ffouerteenth yeare of our Raigne."—Barker.

The following receipt is on a loose half-sheet of foolscap paper:—

"Quinto Decimo die Maij,
"1663.

"Received of William Paule Doctor of Divinity the some of nine pounds currant English money for the Booke of Co-en prayer vnder the great Seale of England, to remayne in the custodye of the said Dc'or Paule Deane of Lichfeild and the Chater there as a Record according to the tenor of a late Act of Parliament—That is to say seaven pounds thereof for the fees of the great Seale and fortye shillings for Mr. Croke the Stasioner for the Booke J Say Rec' } £9.

"by me
"Thos. Agar."

I come next to the copy of the Prayer Book, which I now exhibit. By the Act of Uniformity every rector, &c., was enjoined to use the new book on the Sunday before the Feast-day of St. Bartholomew, 1662, or within a month after; or *ipso facto* to be deprived of all his spiritual promotions, "Provided also . . . . . that a true printed copy of the said Book, entituled," &c., "shall, at the cost and charges of the parishioners of every Parish Church, and Chapelry, Cathedral Church, Colledge, and Hall, be attained and gotten before the Feast-day," &c., "upon pain of forfeiture of three pounds by the months, for so long time as they shall then after be unprovided thereof, by every Parish, or Chappelry, Cathedral Church," &c. The volume before us is the one which was then provided, procured by the parishioners of Hartshorne, Derbyshire. Like many others, when a new one was wanted, this was handed to the parish clerk for lighting his fire or his candles. It thus came into the possession of the Insley family of Hartshorne, and from them to the Rev. G. N. Clarke, lately curate of Seile, and now rector of Saxelby, who kindly gave it to me. I have another copy of the same edition, which I also exhibit. It is imperfect, but interesting to me personally, as having been the one used by my kinsman, the Rev. H. Gresley, prebendary of Worcester, and rector of Severn-Stoke, in that county, at the time of the Restoration. I found it tossing about in Severn-Stoke church, and the present rector said I might have it.

The Hartshorne copy is printed from the very same types as the Lichfield Sealed Book, excepting that a very few of the ornamented wood-cut capitals are different. I have collated it with that

exemplar, so that you see in it exactly what that Sealed Book is; with the addition, however, of the State Services, which were subsequently passed by the Convocation of the clergy, and confirmed by the king.

It was unanimously resolved that his Grace the Duke of Rutland be requested to become patron of the Society, in conjunction with the Lord Bishop of Peterborough.

Some financial business having been disposed of, it was resolved that the copies of the Reports and Papers of the Associated Architectural Societies for 1855, now remaining in the hands of the Secretaries, should be presented to the members who have been subsequently elected.

Mr. G. Nevinson moved, and Mr. Neale seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

February 28*th*, 1859.

Mr. Thomas Nevinson in the chair.

Mr. James Thompson exhibited a MS. on a sheet of parchment, recently purchased at the sale of the effects of the Rev. J. G. Dimock, rector of Uppingham. It appears to be the first skin of "The abstracte or brefe declaracion of all and singular Lordshippis, manners, landes, tenements, woodes, personagis, pencions, and all other possessions as well spirituall as temporall apperteignyng vnto the late attaynted monastery of Colchester, surveined by Richard Pollerd and Thomas Moyle, esquiers, generall Surveyers of the Kingis landes," &c., reference being made to a book in which the particulars might be found. The last abbot of the "attaynted" monastery of St. John Baptist at Colchester was John Beche, "of whom," says Willis, "I know nothing farther, than that he was one of the three Mitred Parliamentary Abbats (the two others being those of Glastonbury and Reading) that had courage enough to maintain his conscience, and run the last extremity, being neither to be prevailed upon by bribery, terror, or any dishonourable motive, to come into a surrender or subscribe the king's supremacy: on which account being attainted of high treason, he suffered death at Colchester, and was hanged there December 1, 1539."—(*Mitred Abbies*, vol. 1, p. 57-8.) The heading of this document and the initial letters are ornamented with pen and ink drawings elaborately and beautifully executed. The initial letter contains a portrait of Henry VIII., and the royal arms and supporters. A large drawing at the top represents, apparently, a royal personage with small face,

long beard, and aquiline nose, carrying a sceptre in his right hand, and riding on horseback. He is preceded by trumpeters, and attended by spearmen. The people kneel before him as he passes forward towards a gateway. It is king Ahab taking possession of Naboth's vineyard. In the distance is seen a gallows with a ladder raised against it, and the martyrdom of Abbot Beche.

Mr. North exhibited a hitherto unnoticed local token which had come into his possession since the publication of his Paper read before the Society upon the Tradesmen's Tokens of Leicestershire. On the obverse is HENRY CRODDYN IN, round a cross moline;

C.

and on the reverse, MELTON MOBERY round the letters H. A. Henry Croddyn lies interred in the north aisle of Melton Church: he died January 3rd, 1699. The Crodens appear to have been in Melton many years previously to this. In the churchwarden's accounts for 1612 is found,—"Item, to Rafe Croden and William Allyn for Four dayes and a halfe settinge up winders in the Steepell .... IXs."

A small leaden token found in Melton Mowbray, also exhibited

A. 16

by Mr. North, had on the obverse W. E., and on the reverse 57.

The Rev. J. H. Hill exhibited two-third brass Roman coins, found near the Manor House at Medbourne. One of them has the words VRBS ROMA and a head on the obverse, and the wolf with Romulus and Remus on the reverse.

Mr. G. C. Neale read the following paper:—

The small engraving which I exhibit this morning is a likeness of the illustrious Erasmus of Rotterdam, who was born in the year 1467, and died in 1536. It was executed by William Vaillant, and is one of the earliest specimens in the mezzotinto style, the inventor of which was Prince Rupert, the devoted partisan and general of Charles the First. The first specimen engraved by him, and which was subsequently published, may be seen in the first edition of Evelyn's *Sculptura*, 1662. Vaillant was of the greatest assistance to the Prince in perfecting his newly discovered art; one which no doubt was an improvement upon the rough etchings and engravings of that period. The mezzotinto style, from its softness of execution and the blending of light and shade, is much to be admired; but still must be considered an inferior branch of art. The old line engravings by Woollett, Brown, Wille, Morghen, and those of a later period by Heath, Sharye, Greatbach, and others, display greater talent and are more true to nature than the cotemporary productions of the other class. I also exhibit the Dunbar medal struck in commemoration of the victory gained at that place by Cromwell over the Scottish army commanded by General Leslie. On the obverse is a splendidly executed bust of the Protector, inscribed "The Lord of Hosts," "Won at Dunbar, Sept. 3. 1650."

In the field is represented a battle, and charge of cavalry. Reverse, the House of Commons, members seated, one standing addressing the house. This is the large-sized medal, and is the workmanship of the celebrated Thomas Simon whose name can be deciphered under the bust. With regard to Erasmus* and his times in connection with the Reformation and the advancement of learning, or Cromwell and the age in which he lived, much that is interesting might be noticed, though perhaps it would be considered irrelevant on this occasion. If I understand aright, we meet here for the discussion of facts and not principles, to express our own opinions and those of others on the objects exhibited, their natural, local, or historical associations, and not on the moral or religious sentiments which such might call forth. For instance, we exhibit coins for identification, to have them deciphered, and to examine into their rudeness or beauty of execution. We regard them with deep interest as links in the long chain of succession of monarchs and princes, or as tangible records of historical facts. But if when looking at a coin of Cromwell or the Commonwealth we discuss the character and principles of that remarkable man, difference of opinion might be expressed and discussions entered into, which would render our meetings those of a Controversial rather than an Architectural and Archæological Society. A coin of Henry the Eighth with Wolsey's initials stamped upon it, a manuscript of Ridley, an autograph of Latimer, a jetton of Laud, or a medal of Charles the Second commemorating the Restoration, is each in itself a page of history and a valuable and interesting object for us to consider and admire, without occupying our time in criticising the creeds and dogmas of those individuals, whose memories are held in detestation by some, or regarded with esteem and veneration by others.

Mr. Ingram exhibited a beautifully carved cocoa-nut, of small size, set in silver, as a drinking cup.

Mr. Goddard exhibited a spring padlock, of a globular form, about 1½ inch in diameter, found at Gaddesby. Also a bronze medallion, of an equestrian figure of King Charles the First, surrounded by a border or frame of flowers, &c. It was purchased by Mr. Goddard at Quenby Hall, and was stated to have belonged to the Digby family. It will be remembered that the equestrian

* Formerly a custom prevailed with learned men to change their names. They showed at once their contempt for vulgar denominations and their ingenious erudition. They christened themselves with Latin and Greek. This disguising of names came at length to be considered to have a political tendency, and so much alarmed Pope Paul the Second, that he imprisoned several persons for their using certain affected names, and some, indeed, which they could not give a reason why they assumed. *Desiderius Erasmus* was a name formed out of his family name *Gerard*, which in Dutch signifies amiable; or Gar *all*, aerd *nature*. He first changed it to a Latin word of much the same signification, *desiderius*, which afterwards he refined into the Greek *Erasmus* by which name he is known.—*Curiosities of Literature*, vol. ii., p. 67.

stature of King Charles, executed in bronze in 1633 by Le Sour, for the Earl of Arundel, fell at the time of the Great Rebellion into the hands of the Parliamentarians, by whom it was ordered to be sold and broken up. The purchaser, John River, produced some broken pieces of metal, and sold various articles to the cavaliers as relics of the statue. Possibly the bronze now exhibited may be one of them. The attachment of the Digby family to the Royal cause is well known. At the Restoration the statue was again brought to light, sold to government, and placed upon a pedestal executed by Grinlin Gibbons at Charing Cross.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley exhibited some specimens of English spurs, of which he read the following description:—

No. 1, is denominated a "prick spur," from its having a sharp point at the extremity of the neck instead of a rowel. It is of the earliest form known; the arms and neck being straight. The spurs of the soldiers represented in the Bayeux Tapestry are of this description, and they continued of this form until the time of Henry II.; but by the end of the reign of that King (1189) the depression of the arm, occasionally before seen, had become permanently settled. The neck of this spur is only $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch in length. The extremities of the arms were flattened and pierced with loops, of which one remains perfect. Through these passed a single strap, which went under the foot and was buckled on the instep.

No. 2, is a very fine example of a spur of about the time of Richard the Second, very similar in shape to that of Edward the Black Prince, on his effigy in Canterbury Cathedral. The arms of it are strongly curved, and it has a foliated rowel of eight points. It was found at Winchester, at Uplands House, a few hundred yards outside the western gate.

No. 3, is probably of the same reign, but later. The arms are straighter and broader than those of No. 2. One extremity of it appears to have been perforated with a single hole for fixing the straps, and the other with two holes. The neck is short and has a star-shaped rowel of six points. It was found, as I was informed, twenty years ago with No. 1, at Clarendon, in Wiltshire.

No. 4, is similar in shape to the spurs shown on the brass of Sir Symon de Felbrigge (standard bearer to Richard the Second), in Lingfield church, Surrey (1427). The arms are straight for a little way from the neck and then curve downwards, and each terminates with two holes, to one of which on one side a small hook remains attached. It has a star-shaped rowel of six points.

No. 5, is a noble and beautiful spur, to which an interesting history belongs. Ralph, eldest son and heir of John Shirley, was twenty-six years of age and upwards on the 31st of October, 1487 (2 Henry VII.). A few months previously we find him, with many other retainers of the house of Lancaster, following the standard of Henry VII., who had assembled his army at Kenilworth Castle,

and marched through Coventry and Loughborough to Nottingham, to suppress the insurrection raised by the followers of Lambert Simnel, headed by the Earl of Lincoln and the Viscount Lovall; he was accordingly present at the battle of Stoke, fought June 16th, 1487, and was one of the fifty-two knights dubbed on the field. There appears no reason to doubt that the spur now exhibited is one of those stated in Harleian MSS. 4928, p. 39, to have been worn by Sir Ralph Shirley at the battle of Stoke, and then, in the time of Charles the First, "conserved by the Shirleys." As one of Jack Cade's friends might say,—"the spur is alive at this time to testify to the fact." I am enabled to exhibit it by the kindness of Sir Ralph's descendant, its present possessor, the Earl Ferrers. The neck of this spur, which slightly curves upwards, is about three-and-a-quarter inches in length. The arms, curving downwards, are about three-and-a-half inches, and terminate with two holes, to the upper one of which on one side is attached a buckle, and from the lower one on the other side hangs a hook. The rowel is star-shaped, having eight points one-and-a-half inch long. The metal is latten, and it has been gilded. The neck and arms are ornamented with a continuous foliated pattern. To the sides of the neck and arms twelve small rings are attached, from which as many small metal balls were dependent, five of which remain. This spur survived the conflagration of Chartley Castle about ten years ago.

No. 6, is the neck of a spur of probably Henry the Eight's time, with a rowel formed of a circular plate of metal indented so as to appear to have twenty-seven points. It was found, as well as No. 4, at Salisbury, during the excavations for sewerage in 1857.

No. 7, is the neck and mutilated arms of a brass spur of the time of Charles the First. The arms are ornamentally engraved. It was found in 1847 by a labourer in the railway cutting at Castle Gresley, Derbyshire. It had a rowel as large as a penny, and buckles at the extremities of the arms. The bright gilding upon it made the discoverer suppose it was gold, but he was undeceived by a silversmith at Burton-upon-Trent, who filed off both the buckles.

Earl Ferrers sent for exhibition a large stone hatchet-shaped celt, dug up near the Manor House at Chartley. Its length is about eight-and-a-half inches: the edge for cutting measures about four-and-three-quarter inches, and the other end which is very massive, and was used as a hammer, is about two-and-a-half by three inches. It weighs six pounds two ounces. The upper and lower sides of it have a hollow bevel. There is a hole through it, rather behind the centre, for the insertion of the handle. This was probably made by the rotary friction of another hard round stone used with sand and water. Where metal was used the sides of the apertures are cylindrical, and in some cases the circular

lines left by the tool may be seen; where, on the contrary, a stone was used the edge of the aperture is splayed on each side. It is of a hard fine-grained stone of a light grey colour, which might be taken for limestone, but sulphuric acid has no effect upon it.

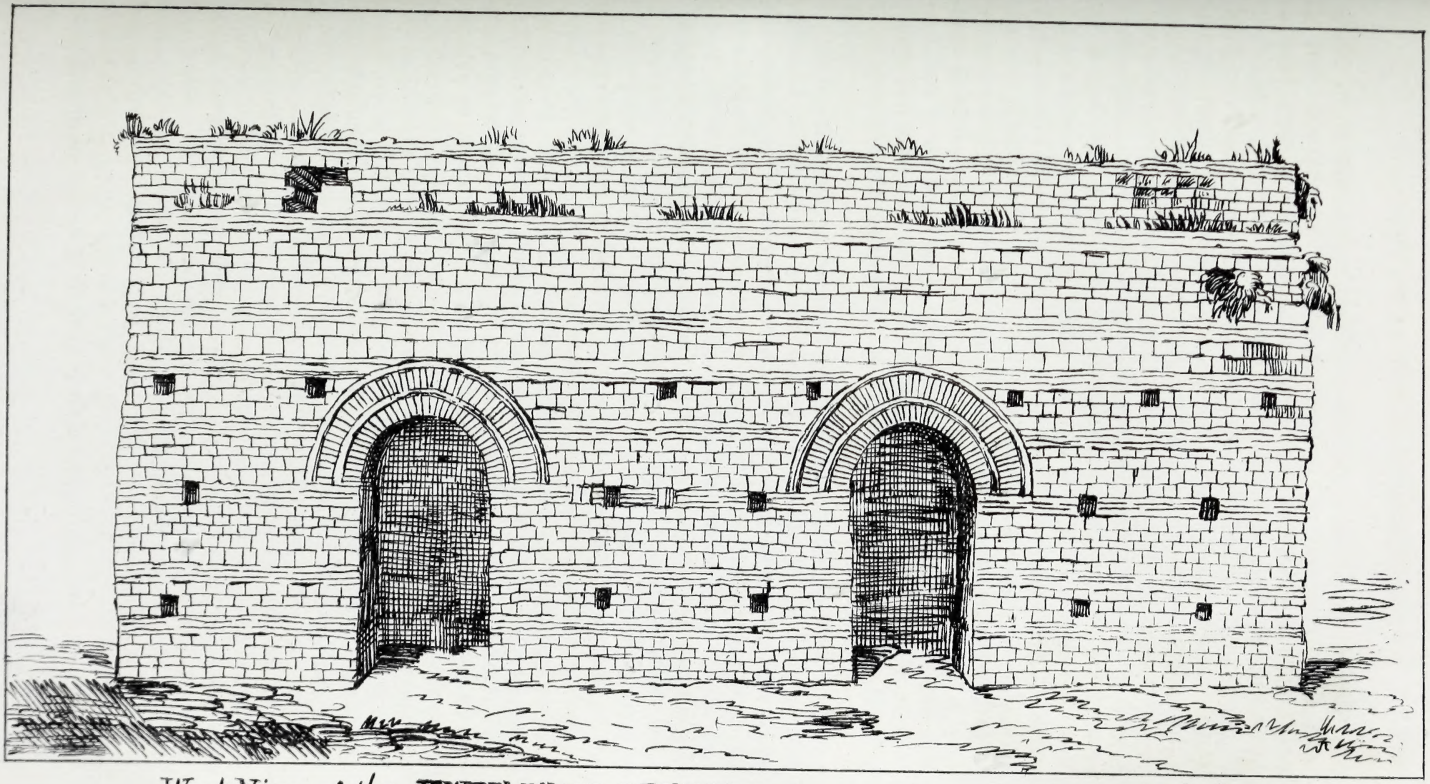
The Rev. J. M. Gresley exhibited another celt presented to him by W. Dewes, Esq., which was discovered about fifty years ago upon the Wolds, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in the corner field where the lane to Blackfordby diverges from the Over Seile and Ashby turnpike road. It is of roughly chipped yellow flint, about eight-and-a-half inches long, and three inches in the broadest part, which is near the semi-circular cutting edge, from whence it becomes narrower towards the star end, which is obtusely pointed. "As the celt was the principal tool and weapon of the early Celtic inhabitants of this island, serving the purposes of the chisel, pick, punch, wedge, plane, hatchet, and battle-axe," it is found, as in the present instance, unaccompanied by other remains.

The Chairman exhibited Roman coins of Vespasian and Maximinis, the former having the legend IMP. CAES. VESPASIAN AVG. P. M. TR. P. P. COS. III.

Mr. James Thompson read the following Paper:—

THE JEWRY WALL, LEICESTER: OBSERVATIONS THEREON.

The ancient cities and towns of this country, founded by the Romans, were very generally laid out on a uniform plan. In the first instance, they were merely surrounded by a vallum or embankment of earth, and a fosse or dyke, running parallel therewith. In due course, when these encampments (for such they were originally) were transformed into towns—when they were no longer used for military purposes solely, but became the habitation of civilians as well as soldiers, and the centres of trade, and the abodes of men prosecuting the peaceful arts of life—walls of immense thickness and solid strength were raised on the line of the vallum, thus engirdling the houses of the inhabitants with an impregnable line of defence. The outline of the walls was usually four-sided, forming a parallelogram, and frequently running in such a course as to face the points of the compass—the angles of the walls pointing north-east, south-east, south-west, and north-west. Midway between the corners of each of the four sides was a gate; and, traversing the interior of the place, from north to south and east to west, were two main streets. An examination of the modern maps of those cities and towns in England which are known to have been originally founded by the Romans, will con-



West View of the JEWRY WALL LEICESTER from a Drawing by Dr. Stukeley 1722

vince any reflecting person of the truth of what is here stated, and will illustrate the foregoing observations. In Leicester, the indications remaining of this arrangement are sufficient to prove what the town was when a Roman station; for we have still a North-gate, a South-gate, an East-gate, and a West Bridge; though it should be here interposed that the term "Gate" means, not a portal, but a *road*, and is supposed to have been derived from the Danish occupants of Leicester. In addition to the gateways, on three sides of the town may be discerned the straight line followed by the ancient wall. On the north side, the line ran parallel with Soar Lane and Sanvey Gate—on the east with Church Gate and Gallowtree Gate—on the south with Horsefair Street and Millstone Lane. The fourth side is said by some antiquaries never to have existed; if it did exist, it is certain that all traces of it above-ground have long been obliterated.

That a *western* wall, corresponding with the eastern wall, did once exist seems, however, not merely probably but tolerably certain. It will be the main object of the following remarks to establish this point.

Now, although examples of Roman encampments may be adduced in which a fourth wall is wanting, as at Lymne and Richborough, it is equally clear that in other cases the four walls have once existed, and the parallelogram has been complete. In proof of the latter assertion, the Roman stations of York and Chester, both similarly situated to our own town, may be mentioned. As it is well known to antiquaries that York occupied a high position in the scale of Roman stations in Britain—having been the seat of the imperial sway in the reign of Severus, who there established his court and died—the features of its plan in Roman times may be considered worthy of examination in guiding us to correct conclusions with regard to Roman Leicester. Fortunately for the interests of Archæology, the late Rev. Charles Wellbeloved (in his "EBURACUM," a work which may be considered the most complete and admirable of its kind ever published) exhausted every source of information relating to York under the Romans. In this book are given plans of modern York and the ancient city. From these it appears that the latter was erected on an angular space, formed by the junction of the rivers Fosse and Ouse. Two sides of *Eburacum* therefore, were guarded by the branches of these streams. Traces of the existence of the Roman walls have been discovered, beyond question, on these two sides; the only doubt is in reference to one of the sides unprotected by either of the rivers. Again; in the case of Chester, the same indications of the quadrangular outline of the walls are discoverable. In Hemingway's history of that city, a map is inserted exhibiting the line of the mediæval walls and of the streets, showing the course of the earlier (the Roman) walls. Chester was placed, like Leicester, in a corner formed by the river running

by its walls. At Chester, the Dee flowed by its southern and western boundaries. In this example, the outlines of the original Roman encampment are more distinctly perceptible than in York or Leicester, as streets still run due north and south, and east and west, through the city.* It is recorded that Ethelfleda, the daughter of King Alfred, removed the walls existing in her day (about the year 920) and enclosed the city with new walls, making it nearly twice as large as it was before; so that, to quote the words of Matthew of Westminster, "the castle, that was sometime by the water, *without* the walls, is now in the town, *within* the walls." The ancient boundaries of Chester seem to have run, before the change here described was effected, on the northern and eastern sides, nearly on the site of the walls now standing. On the western side the wall would appear to have gone along Nicholas Street, Linenhall-street, and St. Martin's-in-the-Fields; on the southern side, along Castle Street, and in a direct line eastward to the part where Duke Street and Park Street are united. It does not appear there were ever fewer sides than four to the ancient Roman city of *Deva* or Chester.

It should be observed, in reference to those cases in which a fourth wall is wanting, that they are of such an exceptional nature as not to be worthy of consideration when weighed in the balance against the numerous examples illustrating the rule. But various objections have been raised to the idea here entertained of the existence of a western wall, parallel with an eastern wall, in Roman Leicester. It has been urged that such a disposition places the principal right-hand gateway at the angle of the southern rampart and not in any part of its face; that, in almost all such fortified stations, established on the banks of rivers, the vallum was brought as near as possible to the stream; that the ground lying between the Jewry Wall and the river is that which appears to have been a part at one time covered with buildings, and, therefore, intramural; that, as the walls and ditch of the mediæval town were on three sides, doubtless, identical with the original Roman lines, it may be reasonably supposed the same coincidence existed on the fourth side also; and, lastly, that in the plan of Stukeley, published nearly a hundred years ago, the south rampart is carried up to the bank of the river.

These are the objections taken by a local antiquary, who has devoted much time and thought to the consideration of this subject. Emanating from such a source, any observations are entitled to full and respectful attention. If unassailable by fair and candid argument, Mr. Hollings's objections† must be allowed to prevail. In any case, their publication renders it necessary that precon-

* These streets are named Northgate Street, Bridge Street, Eastgate Street, and Watergate Street.

† See "Roman Leicester: a Paper read before the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, January 13, 1851. By J. F. Hollings."

ceived opinions and conjectures should be carefully and closely re-examined. But it is scarcely necessary to analyse these objections *seriatim*, as they mainly turn upon one point—whether the indications of the existence of foundations, below the surface of the ground lying *between the Jewry Wall and the river*, afford proof positive of the non-existence of the western wall laid down in the plan I have published in a Paper on this subject.*

Now, I do not think the discoveries here mentioned *do* overthrow the supposition that a western wall originally formed one of the boundaries of *Ratæ* in the direction indicated; and when our enquiries are extended to other sites of Roman occupancy, this will more fully appear. In the case of York, for instance, Mr. Wellbeloved has recorded the discovery of numerous traces of foundations between the ancient south-western wall of that city and the river, in a position exactly similar to that between the supposed western wall of *Ratæ* and the Soar. If the existence of a wall on the river side of Roman York was no obstacle to the subsequent erection of houses in that extramural quarter in Roman times, why, then should it be so in Roman Leicester? The vallum was not brought as near as possible to the stream at York—why, then, should it be so brought in Leicester? In answer to the argument which requires that the mediæval walls should occupy the exact line of the Roman walls, the case of Chester may be adduced, the south wall of which—that nearest to the Dee originally excluding the castle—being taken close to the river during the Saxon period, thus occupying a totally different position from that it originally occupied. In the case of York, the change was still greater, for the mediæval wall was carried direct to the bank of the river—it was then continued on the other side of the river—and a large and entirely fresh area was included, occupying, probably, more space than the original Roman encampment itself. In fact, in the two examples of York and Chester, the wall abutting on the river side seems to have been that which became disused and superseded: it would, indeed, appear that the space intervening between the wall and the stream was protected by the two, and was therefore occupied as soon as the space within the walls began to be found insufficient for the population. When the country was settled, on the thorough subjugation of the natives and the permanent establishment of the Roman power, the walls may have fallen into comparative neglect, or, if any protection on the western side were needed in the case of *Ratæ*, a new vallum may have been erected close to the river, including the more modern structures of the station; and then the original western wall would be removed, its stones supplying materials for the later buildings.

With regard to the position of the south gate, I think it is not

* The Jewry Wall, Leicester, a paper read at the Congress of the British Archæological Association, held in Manchester, 1850.

to be assumed without question that the mediæval entrance was on the same site as the Roman. It is quite obvious the Roman walls, though followed by our forefathers in many instances, were not invariably so; they chose part and altered part, and thus also with the gateways. I should be inclined to put the south gate of *Ratæ* at a point more nearly central on that side of the wall, instead of in the position occupied by the south gate of Saxon Leicester. But even in Roman stations there were exceptional cases of irregularity, as at Pevensey, where the gateway is at one of the angles of the original *enceinte*. So that, supposing the south gate of Roman Leicester to have been where the south gate of later times is known to have stood, its position there would not necessarily have militated against the existence of a western wall parallel with the admitted eastern wall; nor does it follow that because the south gate of the Middle Ages was in one place, the earlier south gate was in that precise locality.

If, then, we remember that the almost uniform plan in Roman times was to erect quadrangular walls—the north side parallel with the south, the east with the west—and if we have seen that there is nothing in the objections urged against the position of the western wall of Roman *Ratæ* where I have placed it, which is not answered by an appeal to the analogies furnished elsewhere, as at York and Chester,—then we have no alternative left but to conclude that the original western wall of Roman Leicester ran from the western extremity of the north wall to the western extremity of the south wall, leaving, in the first instance, a vacant space between it and the Soar.*

The next step in the investigation is to pursue the analogy further. The western wall being considered established, the antiquary would look for a gateway in the centre, midway between the two ends of the wall, in the place where such entrances were usually provided. There were generally four similar gateways, admitting to every Roman encampment or station. The principal of these was the *Decuman* gateway; a second was the *Pretorian* gateway; the third and fourth were of subordinate importance. The Decuman gateway was sometimes in one face of the wall, and sometimes in another, its situation being governed by local circumstances. It would be difficult to say, positively, what the western gateway of *Ratæ* would be, nor is it of immediate importance to determine.

Now, I have examined the large plan of Leicester, drawn to scale for sanitary purposes, with a view of ascertaining where the western wall would run. The result is, that, supposing the western extremity of the north wall to terminate a short distance

* I may here state that in a republication of his paper on "Roman Leicester," in a volume of Papers read before the Literary and Philosophical Society, Mr. Hollings entirely omits the objections to the existence of the western wall of *Ratæ* on the line I have pointed out, though they appeared in full on the first appearance of his Essay.

SUPPOSED OUTLINE of the Walls of
ROMAN LEICESTER
H
Canal
RIVER SOAR
Sheet Gate
E
D
G
D
C
B
South Gate Street
Millstone Lane
Horse Fair Street
High Street
Church Hill
Cross Street
Soar Lane
A.
Sanvy Gate
Gallow tree Gate
B.
Church Gate

from the Soar, so as to allow clear space for the north-west angle of the walls to stand upon, and producing a line parallel with the admitted eastern wall to the western extremity of the south wall, this gives us the western boundary of the Roman city, and it *passes through the Jewry Wall.* That pile occupies its place naturally, in fact, as a portion of the western wall.*

The next question is, in what part of the western wall does the Jewry Wall stand? By a careful and special measurement, which Mr. Stephens, the Borough Surveyor, very courteously made for me, it appears that the centre of the Jewry Wall is within twenty feet of a point exactly halfway on the line of the western wall. The distance from the centre of the Jewry Wall to the Soar Lane end of the western boundary is 1260 feet; from the same point to the South Gate extremity it is 1240 feet. The Jewry Wall is, therefore, in the precise locality where we should expect to find the western gateway of Roman Leicester.

A reference to the appearance of the ruin on its outer side—the opposite of that we now see—may help us in arriving at a definite conclusion on this subject. A drawing of the Jewry Wall on this side, as it appeared in the year 1722, made by Dr. Stukeley, will show us what the fabric looked like in its original condition, to a person approaching the city from its western or river quarter—to the legionary, for example, on his way from the south, along the Fosse, and the road downward from that part to *Ratæ.* It is almost apparent the two openings are not those of a building, but of a town wall. One seems intended for ingress to the station, the other for egress, and the size of the openings indicate such an intention; for they were nine feet wide, and twelve feet high—wide enough and high enough for men on horseback to pass through, or for waggons to be driven through. At *Borcovicus* (Housesteads) on the wall of Hadrian, the western gateway has two portals or passages, and the outer face is level with the wall of the station, as in the case before us.

At the same time, the masonry is precisely like that of Roman town walls existing in fragments elsewhere. It is of the customary thickness and height, due allowance being made for the effects of decay in the latter respect. The height of the Jewry Wall is now about twenty feet—the walls of Rutupiæ were originally thirty feet, those of Lymne twenty three feet, and the great wall of Hadrian eighteen or nineteen feet high.†

That there was no building on the eastern side of the Jewry Wall, where St. Nicholas's church now stands. Throsby distinctly

* I recommend the reader here to refer to the plan annexed, and to compare the letter-press and all the details with each other. A is the North Gate, B is the East Gate, C the South Gate, and F D G D E the line of the supposed western wall, G indicating the site of the Jewry Wall. E is the western extremity of the north wall, F the western extremity of the south wall.

† See "The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon."

proves in his history of the town, at page seven, where he says:—"Being desirous of learning something that might lead to a discovery of its former magnitude, I employed some workmen to dig on the east side, transversely, and in a right direction with the wall, thinking to find a foundation, which I intended to have traced to its extent; but it nowhere continued a foot beyond the projecting parts." A pavement of small bricks or tiles has been found in the adjoining churchyard, but they are not of certain Roman manufacture, and therefore the fact proves nothing in relation to any supposed building in this locality.

Another discovery, which I think aids in the elucidation of this question, was that of the *cloaca*, or common sewer, on this side of the town. Throsby states that this took place in the year 1793. He says: "As some workmen were employed in removing the earth from a piece of ground nearly an equal distance between the Jewry Wall and the river, they discovered, at the depth of about five feet, some very large blocks of freestone, half a ton weight; and on their being removed, it was discovered they had been placed over a kind of tunnel, two feet over and four deep, made of the same kind of materials and built on the same principles as the Jewry Wall. * * * The commencement of it (so far as is known) is in a cellar of Mr. S. Roberts's house, near the south end of the Jewry Wall, and continues, with a considerable descent, in a right line, north-westwardly to the river. * * * * Where the sewer commences, I am apprehensive, might be the grand entrance, the Janua-gate. The cloaca, I conceive, was seated in the centre of the entrance for carrying off the filth of the city into the river, down the declivity, as that of Rome into the Tiber, made by Tarquinius Priscus. This, like that great work of Tarquinius Superbus, called *Cloaca Maxima*, had also its collateral branches: one I saw at the discovery of the cloaca at Leicester, which lay in a direction pointing from the grand tunnel north-eastwardly into the city."

The facts here detailed by Throsby are unquestionably confirmatory of the view of the Jewry Wall, having been at one time the town gateway on its western side; as it is most probable the main sewer would be carried along one of the main streets, and would pass through or near the gateway which usually formed the termination of the street. Let the existence of the sewer have its proper weight, however, and no more. It is at least accordant with probability that the main sewer, emptying in the river flowing by, would be taken out at, or close to, the principal opening in the massive wall on that side of the city; and, if so, the discovery of Throsby strengthens the supposition that the Jewry Wall was originally the western gateway of Leicester.

Another fact is here worthy of introduction. Throsby (p. 17 of the *History of the Borough*) says: "The space before the Rev. Mr. Andrew's house (now Mr. Rust's premises) cannot easily be

accounted for but upon the score of the gate of the ancient city and wall continuing from the south end of the ruin, right across that broad way to the house known by the name of the Recruiting Sergeant, where the Jewry Wall has recently been proved to have continued *by the discovery of its foundation made of the like material and thickness.*" Here, then, we have most unequivocal testimony to the truth of the position here sought to be made good —that the Jewry Wall was originally part of the town boundary, its foundations being continued exactly in the direction in which they might be expected to be discovered.

But, it is argued, numerous foundations of buildings have been met with outside the wall, between it and the river, which would not have been there, had the western wall run in the line already suggested; for in that case edifices of considerable size are supposed to have been erected without the walls—a supposition involving much improbability. I have already met this objection in a general way, but as there is a special pretension set up for it, it requires further examination. In bestowing this upon the matter, it will be well again to refer to Throsby's statements relative to the discoveries made on the spot when the *cloaca* was brought to view.

"Within the space of a yard of the ancient sewer lay the bases of two columns; and two shafts, each above a yard long—girth, nearly a yard and three-fourths. None of these lay below the blocks of stone which covered the sewer. About the same time, but at the distance of thirty yards from these, was discovered, on a bed of fine red clay, at the depth of twelve feet, a capital of a column, made of the same sort of stone as the base and columns, and corresponding in every particular with them. I have put all the members of one column together in my garden. This, now it is erected, shows that it was originally hewn behind to fit some rugged building, probably of forest stone. This column does not correspond exactly with any order; it is of a purple hue. I observed in the centre of the shaft, where there had been originally a piece of square iron to hold the joints together, that that which remained of the iron was reduced to a rusty mould. Near these columns (that is close to the sewer) lay two amazing strong foundations of a considerable building made of forest stone and grout; the extraordinary floor mentioned above joined to one of them."

The floor here particularly referred to, lay partly adjoining the sewer and nearly on a line with the blocks which covered it over; it was composed of mortar, small pebbles, and pounded brick or tile.

Throsby states also (p. 2) that "foundations of strong and amazing thick walls have been frequently discovered leading from St. Nicholas' church to nearly the banks of the river. I saw one of them (he says) in a cellar of the house at the Talbot; the wall was almost impenetrable."

At a much later date, when excavations were made for the foun-

dations of the manufactory now standing near the Jewry Wall, the lower courses of a wall, lying a little northward of the existing Roman fragment, and running at right angles in the direction of the river, were cleared of the superincumbent earth.

All these discoveries, it must be admitted, militate at first sight against the supposition of the Jewry Wall having been the western gateway of the station; for they imply the former existence of a building or buildings of considerable magnitude outside the gateway, exactly on a site where the road should have run connecting the city with the fosse, which should have been unoccupied ground, were the Jewry Wall originally a gateway. How, then, is this objection to be removed?

I reply by saying there were two epochs in the history of Roman Leicester—(1.) that in which the four original walls contained the station, and (2.) that in which the town outran the western wall and extended to the bank of the river; and that it was probably in the later epoch the Jewry Wall was retained to serve as one of the sides of the large building whose foundations are indicated by Throsby, when its continuing portions, north and south, were taken down to admit of the increase going on in the western quarter of the station.

The first of the epochs here named was that of the infancy of the place, which would be from the year 52 of the Christian era to some date in the second century, as yet unascertained. In this period the massive stone walls, including the dwellings of the inhabitants, were erected, and none lay outside the station. The population of the place was then limited. It was a military settlement merely. Its garrison, with the officers and their slaves, were the only tenants. It had not as yet become the abode of a civic or industrial community. Its numbers would then be stationary and its character unprogressive.

But a change arrived. With peace came security, and these were followed by the cultivation of the soil, the prosecution of industry, and the exchange of commodities. An agricultural and trading class must have gradually formed in *Ratæ* as a consequence; the veterans of the army having settled down into agriculturists, holding the lands around the station as the reward of their past services; and others who had perhaps been artizans before becoming soldiers—having resumed their old occupations.

The first recognition of the existence of Roman Leicester in the pages of history is that of Ptolemy, in the year 120, seventy years after I have assumed the station was founded by a detachment under Ostorius Scapula, and in the year when the milestone (still preserved) was erected in commemoration of the Emperor Hadrian's visit to this district of Britain. A period of profound tranquility succeeded this event, and whatever may have been the irruptions witnessed in the neighbourhood of the counties lying more northward, the midlands must have been comparatively free from the

scenes of bloody revolt and incessant warfare enacted in those localities. Towards the close of the second century, during the prosperous reigns of the Emperors Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius, the towns of Britain became thriving and populous; "merchants, tradesmen, artizans, even probably artists, and men of letters, had sought their fortune where the increase of commerce and civilization opened a field for their exertions."*

This is the time in which it will be reasonable to suppose Roman Leicester widened its limits, as it would then share in the advancing fortunes of contemporary stations. In this period we may suppose the buildings between the Jewry Wall and the river were erected—the tesselated pavements whose fragments are occasionally discovered were laid down—by the wealthy merchants who had contributed to raise the position and prosperity of the city; and the stately edifice, whose fallen columns were found lying in ignominious companionship with the contents of the common sewer, now raised its front to the western horizon, in the freshness of its youth and the unworn outlines of its sculpture, its brow unfurrowed by age and untouched by decay.

Extensive rebuildings of public edifices also took place in the course of the Roman occupation. Inscriptions at *Habitancum* (Risingham) commemorate the restoration of gates and walls; at Ribchester, the rebuilding of public baths and a basilica; and at *Lavatæ* (Bowes) the rebuilding of public baths—all at places now sunk into obscurity.

It may be here stated, as indicative of the process of rebuilding in Leicester, that in the Roman foundations found a few years ago south of the Jewry Wall, tiles were found worked up in the walls which had apparently been used in some earlier building.

From the position of the Jewry Wall on the line of the western wall—from the height and thickness of the masonry—from the proportions of its openings—from the continuation of its foundations in a southwardly direction—I conclude that its pristine purpose was that of a gateway to the Roman city; and that subsequently, when the station became more populous, the greater part of the wall was removed to make way for the suburb; the existing fragment known as the Jewry Wall being then adapted to the purposes of a public edifice or a cluster of edifices, of which the remains have been already described.

Mr. R. Goodacre of Leicester, was elected a member of the Society.

A letter was read from His Grace the Duke of Rutland expressing his willingness to become Patron of the Society in conjunction with the Lord Bishop of Peterborough.

The Meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

* "The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon," p. 104.

April 30th, 1859.

Mr. Thomas Nevinson in the chair.

Mr. Goddard laid before the members a drawing of a font dug up in Leicester Castle in 1821. It was discovered in an inverted position, and formed the foundation stone of the column of the spiral staircase which led to the jury chambers. Judging from its Norman character it was probably the original font of St. Mary's church, which has been superseded by one of later date; or of the Collegiate church of the Newarke, which was demolished at the Reformation. It was removed from the Castle by the late Mr. Freer to his residence at West Cotes, where it still remains.

Mr. Goddard also exhibited an exquisite model, by Flaxman, of Virginius and his daughter, purchased at the Flaxman sale by Redfern of Warwick, from whom it passed to Quenby, where Mr. Goddard purchased it.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley exhibited a drawing of a chessman of ivory (a king), found in 1857 in a street at Salisbury, during the sewerage operations. The height of it is three-and-a-half inches. The king is on horseback, and wears a crown of four fleur-de-lis. The hind quarters of the horse are covered with reticulated housings. Eight attendants walk on each side,—knights in long surcoates, carrying their shields before them, bare-headed apparently, their cast-off hoods of mail being perhaps represented by a kind of collar round the neck. The probable date of this piece may be the reign of king Henry III., when the cathedral and city of New Sarum were founded.

Mr. Gresley (in connection with Mr. Neale's remarks upon mezzotinto engravings at the February meeting) exhibited Prince Rupert's head of the executioner of St. John the Baptist, reduced by the Prince from the large engraving of the executioner in armour, carrying his sword and the head of the saint. This was presented to Evelyn for his first edition of his *Sculptura* in 1662, as a specimen of the then newly invented art, of which Bryant gives the following account:—"The Prince, going out early one morning, observed a soldier employed in cleaning his musket from the rust which the night dew had occasioned; and on examining it, perceived something like a figure corroded upon the barrel, with innumerable small holes, close together, like friezed work on gold or silver, part of which the soldier had scraped away. He conceived an idea that some contrivance might be found to cover a copper-plate with such a grained ground of fine pressed holes, which would give an impression all black, and that by scraping away those parts which required to be white, the effect of the drawing might be produced. He communicated this idea to Wallerant

Vaillant, a painter in his service; they made several experiments, and at last invented a steel roller, cut with tools to make teeth like a rasp or file, which produced the black ground, which in some measure answered the purpose intended." Prince Rupert's right to claim this invention is however now, like the invention of Romulus and Remus, and everything else, questionable.

Mr. Gresley also exhibited six impressions of seals found when old London Bridge was destroyed, probably those of tradesmen of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Also some genuine and forged brass and copper Roman coins, in which he pointed out certain peculiarities in the edges and the rust, by which they might be distinguished. He also exhibited a very fine denarius of Germanicus, son of Drusus, senior, and Antonio, born B.C. 15, adopted by Tiberius, and created Cæsar A.D. 13, and poisoned by Piso, governor of Syria, at Epidaphne, A.D. 19. This coin having the head of Augustus on the reverse, is of considerable rarity. It was found at Weston, near Bicester, about twenty years ago.

The Rev. J. O. Stephens, of Belgrave, was elected a member of the Society.

The Annual Meeting and Excursion for the present year having been taken into consideration by the Committee, it was resolved that the place of meeting should be Loughborough, from whence an excursion should be made, probably in the direction of Garendon, Sheepshead, Gracedieu, Whitwick, Mount St. Bernard, Beacon Hill, and Beaumanor.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

June 27th, 1859.

The Rev. R. Burnaby in the Chair.

The Rev. J. H. Hill exhibited a very large shoeing horn, said to have been that of the Abbot of Glastonbury, upon the back of which are engraven seven pictures illustrative of the corporeal works of mercy. It was, however, conjectured that the costume of the figures indicated a rather later period than the time of the dissolution of monasteries in England, and that it was of foreign execution. Also an ancient hunting horn of ivory, among the rudely carved ornaments of which is a lizard. The mouth-piece is in the middle of it, not at the thin end, and it has been deprived of its metal ornaments. These antiquities are now the property of the Rev. J. H. Dent, of Hallaton, by whose permission they were exhibited. They were purchased by him at the sale at Neville Holt in 1848.

Mr. Hill also exhibited a double-edged sword, of the time of Elizabeth, found in an old house at Tugby.

Mr. G. C. Bellairs exhibited two shillings of Elizabeth, with the mint marks of a barrel and a woolpack: a sixpence, mint mark a bird; and a twopenny piece of Charles I. These were found at Cosby.

The Rev. E. W. Woodcock exhibited a rubbing of the monumental brass of Sir William Calthorpe, A.D., 1420, in Burham Thorpe Church, Norfolk. It is a good specimen of a crocketed canopy, and also of plate armour. The knight is decorated with a collar of S.S., the badge of chivalry first used by king Henry IV. The armour is interesting as showing what was in use at the wonderful victory of Agincourt, A.D. 1415. A portion of the legend is:—

> "Quisquis es qui transieris, sta perlege, plora,
> Sum quod eris, fueramque quod es, pro me, precor ora."

Also, the brass of William Ermyn, rector of Castle Ashby, Northamptonshire, A.D. 1401. This brass furnishes an illustration of the amice. The figure is habited in a cope, on the orphrey of which are representations of ten saints, bearing the emblems by which they are known, viz., S. Anne, instructing the Blessed Virgin Mary, S. Katherine with a wheel, S. Margaret with a cross, S. Mary Magdalene with a box of ointment, S. Helena with a tau cross, S. Peter with a key, S. Andrew with a cross, S. Nicholas as a bishop, and S. Lawrence with a gridiron.

Mr. North exhibited a diminutive tripod one-and-a-quarter inch in height, of bronze, lately found in digging in the parish of Scalford, Leicestershire. It agrees exactly in form with the curious objects called *Marmites*, which have been frequently found in France (*Gent. Mag.*, Sept. 1861). One also appears incised upon a tombstone of the fourteenth century, preserved in the Hospitium of S. Mary's Abbey, York. The Marmite now exhibited (judging from its small size) was probably a mediæval toy. Also, a small Nuremburg token found under the pavement in Scalford Church, during the recent restoration there. It has the maker's name—HANS SCHVITES NVRENBERG.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley exhibited several objects of antiquity, in the possession of C. R. Colville, Esq., of Lullington, Derbyshire, of whose house Mr. Shirley says, in his Noble and Gentlemen of England p. 50:—"This is an ancient Cambridgeshire family, and can be traced to the time of Henry I. The Colviles, Barons of Culross, in Scotland, are descended from a younger brother of the second progenitor of the family. The manor of Newton-Colvile, held under the Bishop of Ely, continued in the Colviles from a period extending nearly from the Conquest to the year 1792, when it was sold, and the representative of this family, Sir Charles Col-

vile, settled in Derbyshire, in consequence of his marriage with Miss Bonnell, of Duffield."

In 1410, Sir John de Colvile was appointed by the Bishop of Ely, governor of Wisbech Castle. The matrix of the seal of the governor is now exhibited. It is of steel; and the engraved part is circular, an inch and one-tenth in diameter. The lower part of the stem is octagon, and the upper sexagon, above which is a hole for suspension. The seal is a good deal corroded. Wisbech Castle is conventionally represented upon it with five towers, doorway, and portcullis. The inscription seems to be "Sigillum Castri de Wisbech," with two ornaments between each word. There is an enlarged and badly executed print of it in Watson's History of Wisbech.

This Sir John de Colvile married, according to the pedigree by Watson, Emma, daughter of Sir John Wythe. It appears that, in consequence of some previous irregularities and indiscretion, and of the laws of consanguinity, they found it necessary to obtain a dispensation from the Holy See. The document which they obtained from Pope Boniface IX, is now exhibited. The seal of it is lost. It is addressed to the Prior of Speney, in the diocese of Ely, who probably was to perform the marriage ceremony; but no mention is made of any other clergyman who was to "assist" him upon that interesting occasion. The bride elect is named Emme Gedeneye in the dispensation, which was given at Rome, "*apud Sanctum Petrum*," II id. March, in the 13th year of his Pontificate, *i.e.*, March 14th, A.D. 1404.

Lysons, in his Cambridgeshire, p. 242, says, "In the reign of Henry IV, Sir John Colvile founded a colledge in this parish, [Newton in the Fens,] for four chaplains, four clerks, and ten poor men, called the Colledge of St Mary by the sea coast. One of the chaplains, who served the parish church, had £5. 6s. 8d. per annum, the others 100s., the clerks 40s. 4d., and the poor men, who lived in a house called the Bede-house, 6d. a week each and clothes. There are no remains of this house, which was latterly called the chapel of Saint Mary, or the chapel of the Sea; it stood on the Roman bank adjoining Marshland; after the Reformation, the lands belonging to it were annexed to the rectory: the parsonage house stands on the site of the Colledge. The Bishop of Ely is patron." The orginal MS. book, containing the foundation charter statutes of this religious establishment, is now exhibited. The covering of it is curious. The wooden boards of the sides are covered with white leather, and the whole is protected by another covering of double leather, projecting over the top, laping over the front, and held to the side by a metal fastening, while at the foot this outer case hangs down four or five inches. The vellum pages measure five-and-three-quarter inches in breadth by eight-and-seven-tenths in height. The first four and last four leaves are blank, but are ruled the same

as the others. The first page has a well designed and well executed illuminated border with which the first capital letter, a large C, is connected. In the centre of this initial letter is a shield of arms, —Quarterly 1, 4, *azure*, a lion rampant *argent*, langued and armed, a label of three points *gules;* 2, 3, *or* three chess rooks *gules.* The same shield is introduced again in the middle of the lower border.

There are eighteen statutes, containing the foundation of the chantry, the rules for its government, and the work of its inmates. After these follow certain further provisions, dated the 4th of June, A.D. 1446, and then the volume thus concludes:—*Expliciunt fundacio ordinaciones et statuta necnon reformacionis dictorum statutorum reservacio cantarie super costeram maris in Newton Eliensis diocesis facta edita et ordinata per devotum militem dominum Johannem Colvyle dicte cantarie humilem fundatorem cujus arma hic in prescriptorum statutorum suorum principio bis illuminantur ejiis corpori et anime necnon Emme consortis sue cum suis universis hic et ubique propicietur Deus. Amen.*

Another MS. exhibited is a book of swan-marks. On the back of the first page is written in a hand of the period or soon after,—"These were made out the 6th Oct. in the 29th yr. of Q. Elizabeth's Reign," *i.e.*, A.D. 1587. It is evident, however, that although this may be the date of the making out of this book, it is a copy of an earlier one; for the first two marks are those of *Rex*, and another is that of the *abbot of Peterborough*, which abbey was dissolved by King Henry the Eighth, and the episcopal see created out of its possession, Sept. 4th, 1541. In a hand of the eighteenth century is also written, "Cambridgeshire Swan Nicks or Marks," the word *Geese* having been afterwards substituted for Swan. But this, I imagine, is a mistake, in proof of which may be adduced the fact of the king's marks in this book being the same as those of the king in a roll of swan-marks in Lincolnshire, of Henry the Eighth's reign, engraved in the sixteenth volume of the *Archæologia;* and in Cambridgeshire also we may presume that all the king's geese were swans. The present differs from most books of this kind in having the swan's bill, head, and portion of the neck drawn, instead of merely the upper chap of the bill with the marks; and the bills are here coloured with vermillion. It is well known that from such marks of appropriation originated the once celebrated sign in London of "the Swan with two necks," *i.e.*, two nicks. It is impossible to describe all the marks. Sometimes they assume a decidedly heraldic character, as a shield with a bend for Lord Scroop, and the same with the other marks for Mr. Allen, and another with three bezants on the bend for Balam Alexander. We also see a horseshoe for the Earl of Oxford, a Staffordshire knot for the Earl of Worcester, a cross crosslet for the Earl of Ross, cross keys unnamed, and a Katharine wheel for Mr. Edmund

Bedingfeild. Generally speaking, the others may be said to resemble the well known merchants' marks of the middle ages. It is worth while to record the names of those whose marks are entered:—Rex, 2 marks; Duke of Clarence, Norfolke 2, Suffolke 3, Marquis of Dorset 3, Earle Oxenford, Worster, Wiltshire, Bedford, Esex, Susex, Rosse, Rivers, Huntingdon; then one with two keys in saltire unnamed; Lord Clynton, Dakars 2, Wentworth 2, Skroppe, North, Awdeley, Willshire; Mr. Appryse, Asheby, Hennery Adams of Tydd, Thomas Adams; then, without title, Arley, Allvester, Allen Atkinson, idem modo Gamble, Abbot of Peterborough, Asheton modo Sheppard 2, Idem et Rash, Sr Nich. Bacon, Bishop of Ely (in the margin "sent this to Ldship D W.,") Sr Henry Bedingfeild 3, Mr. Edmond Bedingfeild 2, Mr. Bedingfeild, Mr. Beaupry modo Bell Bell 3, Mr. Bryan 4, Mr. Bryan, Mr. Benett, Mr. Bedett, Mr. Bowes, Mr. Bolles, Balam Alexander, Beals, Ely College, Charles Balam, *Colvile*, Shareman Fines (?), Tho Helbar ar (?), Toagod modo Massey, Twelves, Vydeywood, Welby, Yelverton, Balam Robert, Idem modo B: E: 2, Callow de Holbech, Edwards Wm, Idem modo Pierson, Edwards Tho: Esq. Rennals Mr. Repps ar, Mr. Reed now Neve, Rogers Mr 2, Skeaington, St. Johns, Mr. Partheridge, Mr. Trafford, Ld Bpp of Ely. Fifty-five swans' heads without marks and names follow.

In the volume of the *Archæologia* above mentioned, pp. 159-162, is printed "the Ordinance for the conservation and keeping of the King's swans and signets of his Lords Spiritual, and of his Commons, within the counties of Lincoln, Northampton, Huntingdon, and *Cambridge*, and the liberties and franchise of the same; and for the conservation of fish and fowl, with the assizing of all manner of them, within the said county and liberty of the same." With this ordinance we may connect the MS. now exhibited.

Sir Thomas Colvile, sheriff of Cambridgeshire, 7 Charles I., was succeeded by his nephew, William Colvile, Esq., who took an active part as a Royalist in the Great Rebellion. His name occurs among the gentlemen whom Charles II., at the Restoration, proposed to distinguish by creating them Knights of the Royal Oak; but his intention of creating that Order was abandoned, wisely as some think, for fear of perpetuating dissensions. "It was the custom," says Watson, p. 485, "in those divided times, for the partizans of King Charles to carry certain tokens about with them, and if all the company produced one, conversation became free. These tokens consisted of a profile of Charles, engraved in the manner of a seal, fixed upon a small handle to be worn in the pocket, the seal bearing an impression of two angels uniting the hearts of Charles and his subjects, one of which, in silver, being preserved, is now (1827) in the possession of Sir Charles Henry Colvile." This relic is now exhibited. The seal is about three-

tenths of an inch in diameter; a slender stem rises above this, at the top of which is the king's head in profile, with long hair and Vandyke collar. The total height is about one inch and three-quarters. The thickness of the metal is not more than that of the profile upon a coin or medal. The reverse side is flat and plain.

Mr. Colvile also sent three small articles of marble, supposed to be masonic, obtained by Mr. Adams, of Cairo, from a tomb in Egypt. Two of them are like small square seals, drilled with holes for suspension, but unengraved; the third is in the shape of the letter L.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Colvile and to Mr. Dent for their kindness in allowing these antiquities to be exhibited was unanimously passed.

A letter was read from the Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire Architectural Society, announcing their intention of holding their annual meeting on the 6th and 7th of September, and inviting the Leicestershire Society to join them. The Roman remains recently discovered at Apethorpe, will be visited.

The Rev. N. P. Small, rector of Market Bosworth, was unanimously elected a member of the Society.

At a meeting of the Sub-Committee appointed to arrange the proceedings at the Annual Summer Meeting of the Society, which it had been agreed to hold at Loughborough, it was resolved that the meetings be held on the 27th July, and that the usual excursion take place on the following day, 28th July.

ANNUAL MEETING.

27th July, 1859.

The members and friends of the Society assembled at the Parish Church, Loughborough, where the Rev. Thomas James described the edifice in a popular manner. As his remarks will be given in a more finished form in a Paper read at the Evening meeting no report of his description as given within the Church is here necessary. The bell foundry of Messrs. Taylor was then visited, where several ancient bells were shown as being under repair, or about being recast. The desirability of preserving a record of the

inscriptions of all such bells was suggested to Messrs. Taylor, and it is hoped they will carry out the recommendation. The

BUSINESS MEETING

was held at three o'clock, M. H. Bloxam, Esq., in the chair, when the Report for the year was read and adopted, and the following gentlemen elected members of the Society:—The Rev. Ernest Tower, Earl's Shilton; the Rev. C. Palmer, Owston; the Rev. A. Stone, Houghton; Mr. James Jacques, Birstall; Mr. H. Barber.

Mr. John Gough Nicholls, F.S.A., was elected an Honorary Member of the Society.

THE MUSEUM

was in the Corn Exchange. It was small both in the number, value, and interest of articles exhibited. The walls were, however, well covered with rubbings of ancient monumental brasses, and some fine specimens (rubbings) of modern ones were shown in a separate room by Messrs. Hardman, of Birmingham.

A PUBLIC MEETING

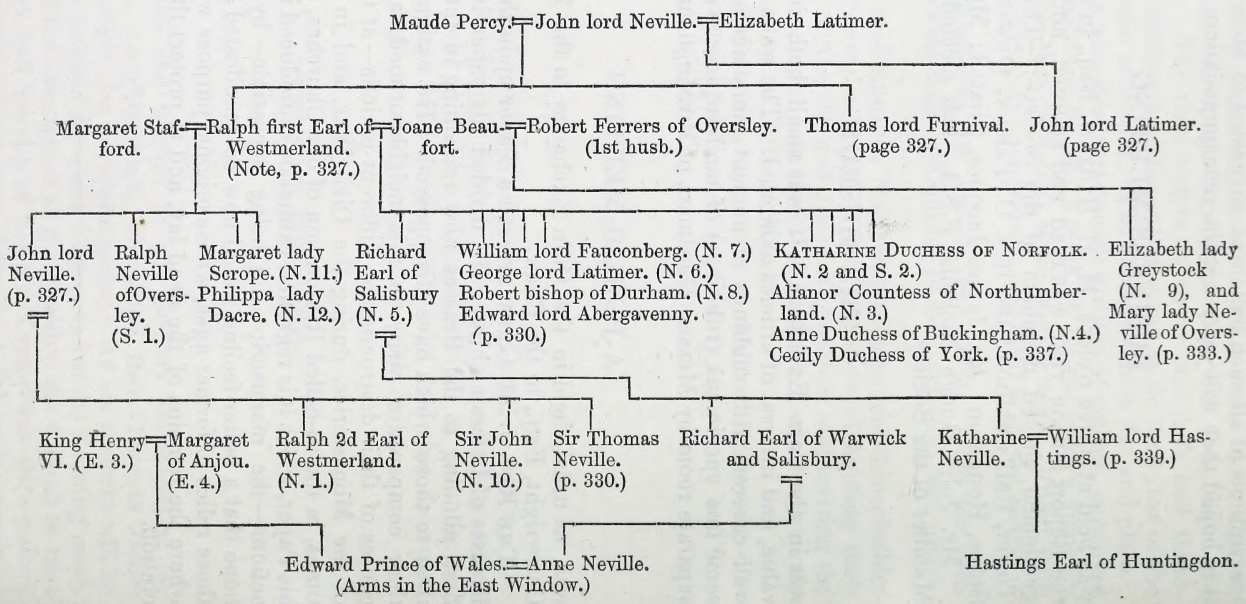
was, as usual, held in the Corn Exchange in the Evening, John Cartwright, Esq., in the Chair.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley read a Paper upon the Monumental Brasses of Leicestershire. He divided his paper into two parts; first, alluding to the Brasses now remaining in the County, and then to those which have disappeared. He assigned reasons for their comparative rarity in this neighbourhood, and traced the causes of their destruction at different periods—at the Dissolution of the Monasteries, during the Civil War, and in more modern times, in the so-called Restoration of our Churches, and concluded his Paper, which it is regretted cannot be reproduced in these Transactions—the manuscript not being accessible—by expressing a hope that a better feeling would now be manifested with regard to these relics of former ages, whose original purpose was to point out where the remains of the dead lay, and to protect them from desecration.

Pedigree of Neville.

WITH REFERENCES TO THE ARMORIAL SHIELDS IN WOODHOUSE CHAPEL.

(N. stands for the North Windows, S. for the South, and E. for the East.)



Mr. John Gough Nichols, F.S.A., read a Paper on

THE ARMORIAL WINDOWS erected in the reign of Henry VI. by John Viscount Beaumont and Katharine Duchess of Norfolk in WOODHOUSE CHAPEL, by the Park of Beaumanor, in Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire. Including an investigation of the differences of the Coat of Neville.

"Posterity may read the distinction of Noble from Ignoble in these venerable Monuments of Ancient Nobility, there being in these Windowes something indeed to instruct a Herauld, nothing to offend the weakest Christian."—*The defacing of the armorial glass at Warwick in* 1642, *as related by Mercurius Rusticus.*

N endeavouring to revive in our imagination the original appearance of medieval structures, and the pristine guise of their furniture and their occupants, it is difficult to realize sufficiently the extent to which Heraldry was once employed as a means of decorative ornament. Every one is aware that in the feudal and chivalric ages it was displayed on the military shields of the upper ranks, but that perhaps is all that the majority know or imagine about it. To some it may occur that we still familiarly talk of a coat of arms, and, if they have never examined our old sepulchral effigies, or the kneeling figures that still rarely exist in church windows, they may recollect to have read in poetry or romance of an embroidered surcoat, or a tabard of coat-armure, such as is still worn by her Majesty's heralds. It is also notorious that armorial bearings were usually displayed upon banners and standards, a practice still partially maintained. But their common and continual introduction into the designs of art and architecture is but little remembered or appreciated.

Our modern use of heraldry is chiefly upon our seals, our plate, and our carriages. Our forefathers equally used it upon their seals, and seals are by far the best authority for antient coat-armure. They employed no carriages with ample panels to exhibit their heraldic achievements, but there was scarcely any portion of their own accoutrements or their horses' trappings that did not occasionally receive its heraldic decoration. It was the same with the furniture of their houses, of their table, and their toilet; with their beds, their hangings and carpets, their purses, their caskets, their brooches and mirrors. Above all, heraldic decoration was largely used in architecture; it was carved in the panel and the cornice, it

was painted on the wall, it filled the storied windows, it was spread upon the encaustic pavements, and it was emblazoned on the ceiling.* It was profusely employed upon the tombs, not merely as a symbol or hieroglyph, but, as elsewhere, for decoration also.

It is my object on the present occasion to direct your attention more particularly to its occurrence as an architectural embellishment—a use which was prevalent from the earliest times, for it so happens that one of the most antient documents we possess among the historic records of English heraldry is one that was placed upon the interior walls of Westminster Abbey when they were erected by King Henry the Third. It is a series (now unfortunately very imperfect) of the shields of that sovereign and his peers, the earls and barons of the realm.† The canopy of the tomb of Henry the Fourth at Canterbury is also adorned with a cornice of baronial shields, thus proving a continuance of the same taste and the same practice during many successive generations.

It is necessary to be aware of this usage if we endeavour to understand the design and import of some assemblages of arms that we still occasionally meet with, and of the many now destroyed that are described by our old topographers and heralds. Our modern ideas would lead us to conclude that such displays represented the ancestry and alliances of the party erecting them, and so they generally did; but they were not limited to the relationship of consanguinity, for they frequently signified feudal dependence and political adhesion, and were tokens of respect and emblems of party beyond the precincts of family alliance.

Burton, in his History of this county, has described two series erected by the same family,—the lords Beaumont; which exemplify, to some extent, the principles upon which such heraldic assemblages were selected and designed. One of them was in the windows of the church in the town‡ where we are now assembled: it represented the marriages of the successive generations of that family,—their genealogy, as it were, in coat-armure. In the neighbouring chapel of Woodhouse was an assemblage that was not so historical, but principally typified the great allies of the family at the time of its erection, which was late in the reign of Henry the Sixth.

John sixth Lord Beaumont was the fifth in descent and regular

* In the Prior's house at Masstoke, in Warwickshire, there still remains a wainscoat ceiling of ninety-six panels, which was painted with the shields of the neighbouring nobility and benefactors of the house, some of which are engraved in Dugdale's History of Warwickshire. It is called the *Camera Picta*. J.G.N., 1864.

† These shields,—the fourteen remaining in 1818, are engraved in the History of Westminster Abbey, by Brayley and Neale, Plate xxvii. They were originally forty in number, and are all described in the same work, vol. ii, p. 26. St. Stephen's Chapel at Westminster was similarly decorated; and some of the shields found there are engraved in Smith's Antiquities of Westminster.

‡ Loughborough.

succession from Henry Beaumont, who was summoned to Parliament as a Baron early in the reign of Edward the Second, and who assumed the title of Earl of Buchan from having married Alice, one of the nieces and heirs of John de Comyn, Earl of Buchan, Constable of Scotland. Henry Lord Beaumont was designated as "the King's kinsman" in 1 Edw. II., and his relationship was apparently through the Queen mother, Alianor of Castille. He was the son of Louis de Brienne, younger son of John de Brienne, King of Jerusalem and Emperor of Constantinople.*

His descendant John, who rose to high distinction in the reign of Henry the Sixth, was born in 1410, being three years old at his father's death in 3 Hen. V. (1413), and proving his full age in 9 Hen. VI. (1431). Having early distinguished himself in the wars in France, he was created Comte of Boloigne by King Henry the Sixth, by charter dated at Canterbury on the 27th July 1434.† In the will of his father-in-law, Sir William Phelipp, Lord Bardolfe, made in 1438, he is styled John Beaumont, Lord of Folkingham, in the county of Lincoln. On the 12th Feb. 1439-40, by name of the Lord Beaumont he was raised to the dignity of Viscount,‡ (with a fee of twenty marks yearly from the farm of the county of Lincoln,) being the first person upon whom that rank was conferred in the English peerage, and it has been presumed that it was suggested by his descent from the ancient Vicomtes of Maine in France. However, some little time after, by the designation of Viscount and Lord of Beaumont, for that of Comte of Boloigne does not again occur, he received on the 18th Jan. 1439-40, a grant of the French vicomté of Beaumont, formerly given to the

* "The lineage of the Earl of Boghan has been differently stated by genealogists; some asserting that he was son to Louis de Brienne by Agnes the heiress of Beaumont, and grandson to John de Brienne, king of Jerusalem, by Berengaria his second consort, the daughter of Alphonso IX. King of Castile: whilst, according to others, his father was Louis the second son of Charles of Anjou, King of Sicily and Jerusalem, younger brother of St. Louis. Henry de Beaumont and his brother Lewis, afterwards Bishop of Durham, are supposed to have come into England with one of the consorts of Edward I., and to have been her kinsmen. Upon the former hypothesis, he was cousin-german once removed to Eleanor of Castile; and, if the other be adopted, he was second cousin to Margaret of France." (Beltz, Memorials of the Garter, 1841, p. 345.) I have preferred the former statement, as it is that which was adopted by that accomplished genealogist the late Thomas Stapleton, esq., V.P.S.A., whose elder brother was admitted to the Barony of Beaumont in the year 1840, and who may therefore be presumed to have investigated the two competing genealogies. In his Observations on the Rolls of the Norman Exchequer, vol. ii. p. xxxii., Mr. Stapleton has given some account of the hereditary *vicomtes* of Le Mans in the comté of Maine, lords of Beaumont and St. Suzanne, whose heiress Agnes became the wife of Louis de Brienne, younger son of John King of Jerusalem and Emperor of Constantinople. "From this match (he adds) sprung the line of the lords Beaumont, of whom John, sixth Baron, was the first who had the title of Viscount in England, an appellation suggested by the descent from the hereditary *Vicomtes* of the Manceux."

† Printed in Selden's Titles of Honour, Part II. cap. ii, sec. 12, from Rot. Franc. 14 Hen. VI. num. 1.

‡ Rot. Pat. 18 Hen. VI. pars 2, m. 21, printed by Selden, Titles of Honour, Part II. cap. v. sec. 31.

King's rebel Jean Duc d'Alencon by the late Duke of Bedford, Regent of France;* and lastly, on the 12th March, 1444-5, he obtained letters patent granting him precedence before all viscounts that should be thereafter created in England, and before the eldest sons of all earls.† In 1441 he was elected a Knight of the Garter. In 1446 he was made Constable of England, and in 1450 Lord High Chamberlain. For this great advancement we may presume that he was materially indebted to his connection with the house of Neville, and consequently with the reigning house of Lancaster; for, having lost his former wife in 1441, he married secondly Katharine Duchess dowager of Norfolk, widow of John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, who died in 1432, and one of the numerous and very powerful family of the Earl of Westmerland, born of Joane Beaufort, half-sister to King Henry the Fourth.

There is on record a slight but interesting fact, which is confirmatory of the reputation of the Viscount Beaumont as a devoted Lancastrian.‡ In 1449 Walter Lord Hungerford bequeathed to him a cup of silver, with a cover, bordure, and knop of gold, "in which cup (as the testator stated,) John Duke of Lancaster was often served, and used to drink as long as he lived."§

The attachment of the Beaumonts to the house of Lancaster was indeed derived from intimate alliance in earlier times; for the second Lord Beaumont had married the Lady Alianor, daughter of Henry Earl of Lancaster, Leicester, and Derby; whilst the Duke of Lancaster her brother married Lord Beaumont's sister Isabel; and, as each of the ladies became the mothers of those who continued the descents, it is obvious that there was near consanguinity between the two families.

I will now proceed to extract the description given by Burton of the Chapel of Woodhouse, a place "so called (he says) for that it stood upon the skirt of Charnewood Forrest, neer unto Beaumannor, the house sometimes of the Lord Beaumont."

"In this place the said Henry lord Beaumont earle of Boughan and Alice, his wife, by the licence of the Abbot of Leicester,‖ built here a very faire and stately Chappell of ashler stone 1338, 13 Edw. III. It was againe repaired in the 28. of Henry the sixt, for I have seene a deede of covenants made betweene Robert Farnham of Quardon of the one part, and a certaine free mason, for the new

* Selden's Letter to Mr. Augustine Vincent, in his Works, folio, 1726, vol. iii, col. 1703.

† Rot. Pat. 23 Hen. VI. pars 2, m. 20.

‡ In some verses on the state of political parties, written about the year 1449, it is said that

"—— Beamownt that gentill Rache,
Hath brought Jack napis in an eville cache."

—meaning the duke of Suffolk. (*Excerpta Historica*, p. 280.)

§ Dugdale, Baronage, ii. 54.

‖ This was required because the abbot and convent of Leicester possessed the rectory of Barrow upon Soar, the parish church.

building of the steeple and the repaire of the Church, dated the said 28. of Henry the sixt. It was then new glazed and repaired, as I should guesse by the armes of King Henry the sixt, standing in the East window of the Chappell, and at the costs and charges (for the most part) of the Viscount Beaumont, as it should seeme by the Coates and matches in the said windowes, and his badges the Elephant and the Lyon carved in wood upon the foremost postes of the seats; all which are curiously and neately performed as in any place which I have seene."

Subjoined is a literal copy of Burton's notes:

"In this Chappell stand these Armes.

In the East window of the Chappell.

Argent a Crosse gueulles. Hospital of Burton Lazars.
Azure a Crosse patee betweene 4 *Martlets Or.*

Quarterly { *Azure* 3 *fleures de Liz Or.*
Gueulles 3 *Lyons passant Or.*

In pale . { *Quarterly* { *France with* 3 *Fleures de Liz.*
England.
Quarterly { *Buruly Argent and gueulles.* Hungary.
France seme a Labell gueulles. Naples.
Argent a Ierusalem Crosse Or. Ierusalem.
France seme a Border gueulles. Aniou.
Azure crusuly 2 *Barbels addorsed Or.* Barre.
Or on a bend gueulles 3 *Allerions Argent.* Bullen.
} King H. 6 and Queene *Margaret* daughter of *Renatus* King of *Naples and Sicily.*

In the window [*l.* windows] on the South side.

Gueulles a Saultier Arg: a Labell Arg: charged with 3 *hurtes.* Neuile.

In Pale . { *Azure seme de fleures de Liz, a Lyon rampant or.* Beaumont.
Gueulles a Saultier Argent.

In Pale . { *Beaumont.*
Azure 3 *Cinquefoiles Or.* Bardolfe.

Azure 3 *garbes Or.* Comin Earle of Boughan.

* *Or a Banner Or pennon gueulles.*

* *Io: Leland* in an old Roule, in his 1. T. fol. 898. Blazeth it, *Or vn gaufanon gueulles*, and setteth it downe for the Armes of *Counte de Auerne.*

Azure two bars gemewes Or.

Or 2 *barres Azure an vrle of Martlets gueulles.* Paynell.

Or a saultier Azure.

Azure 3 *Cinquefoiles Or.*

Quarterly gueulles and Argent in the first quarter a spread Eagle Or. Phillips.

Vert, an vrle of Martlets, and an Escocheon Arg. Herpingham.

In pale Arg: and Vert, an Elephant bearing a Castle Or.

In the North windowes of the Chapell.

In Pale. { *Quarterly* { *France* / *England* } *a Labell Arg.* / *Gueulles a Saultier Arg.*

In Pale. { *Gueulles, 3 Lyons pass: gard. Or a Labell Arg.* / *Gueulles a Saultier Arg.*

Gueulles a saultier Arg.

In pale. { *Quarterly* { *France* / *England* } *a border Arg.* / *Gueulles a Saultier Arg.*

Quarterly { *Or a Lyon ramp: Azure.* / *Gueulles 3 Lucies Arg.*

Gueulles a Saultier Arg: a labell gobony Arg: and Azure.

Gueulles a Saultier Arg: in the middle thereof an Ogresse.

The same hauing in the middest of the Saultier a Mullet Sable.

The same hauing the middle of the Saultier charged with 2 Rings enected [l. *connected?*].

Baruly Arg: and Azure 3 Chaplets gueulles.

Gueulles a Saultier Arg: charged in the middest with a fleure de Liz Sable.

In pale. { *Azure a bend Or.* / *Gueulles a Saultier Arg.*

Gueulles 3 Scallops Argent.

Vpon the former (*l.* foremost) posts of the seates is carved *a Lyon seyant, and an Elephant bearing a Castle.*

The Chapel appears to have been in great measure rebuilt on the second occasion mentioned by Burton, and again, at a later period, in the time of Sir William Heyricke. I believe that no architectural features so old as the glass are now to be detected about the edifice. Even the windows were probably renewed and remodelled in the reign of James the First. They are all square-headed, including that in the East wall, which consists of five lights; the others, of which there are six on either side, are of uniform size, and of two lights each. The whole interior of the building is of one pace, without any distinctive division for a chancel, and it is thus strictly a Chapel, and not a Church.

The windows, except that above the communion table, are deficient of tracery; possibly this was not the original design, but, as already suggested, the result of alterations made in the reign of James the First. But the glazing compensated for any lack of sculptured ornament. It was at once simple and effective. The windows were filled with ornamented quarries, of the usual lozenge form, within bordered margins; and in the centre of each light was a shield of arms.

The quarries were of one uniform pattern, a conventional sprig or flower, which at one time I was inclined to regard as the broom or *planta genista*, but a friend well versed in botany has pronounced it to be unfaithful to any thing in nature.—*(See Illus. facing p. 324.)*

It is to the selection of the shields of arms that I now wish particularly to direct your attention.

Burton has described the full number of twenty-nine; but his description, as it was printed, assigns only four to the East window, whilst it gives thirteen to the North windows and twelve to the South. By removing one from the North to the East we recover the whole, and restore them, as I believe, to their original order.

The East window then becomes entirely occupied with the achievements of the Royal family; being those of the two Royal Saints, usually borne in the King's armies,* those of the King, the Queen, and the Prince of Wales.

1. The red cross of SAINT GEORGE.†

2. The cross flory between five martlets, for SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR.‡

3. France and England, for KING HENRY THE SIXTH §

4. The same impaling the six quarterings of QUEEN MARGARET OF ANJOU: viz. Barry of eight argent and gules, for Hungary; 2. Azure, semée of fleurs de lis or, a label of three points gules, for Naples; 3. Argent, a cross potent between four crosses humettée or, for Jerusalem; 4. Azure, semée of fleurs de lis or, a bordure gules, for Anjou; 5. Azure, semée of cross-crosslets fitchée and two barbels addorsed or, for Barre; 6. Or, on a bend gules three eaglets or alerions argent, for Loraine.‖

5. France and England with a label argent, impaling Neville; for EDWARD PRINCE OF WALES the King's only son, and his wife the lady Anne Neville, the daughter of Richard Earl of Warwick and Salisbury, and afterwards the Queen of Richard the Third. But as the Prince of Wales was not born until 1453, and not married until 1470, this shield must have been an addition, and the fifth light of the East window must have been occupied somewhat differently, when the glass was first erected in 1450.

How the smaller or upper lights of the tracery of the East window were filled we know no further than is shewn by two quarries

* After the taking of the castle of Carlaverock in 1300, the King caused his banner, with those of St. Edmund, St. George, and St. Edward, to be displayed upon its towers.

† Misascribed to the Hospital of Burton Lazars, in the 1777 edition of Burton's Description of Leicestershire, and in Nichols's History of Leicestershire, iii. 116.

‡ Misattributed to Plessington, ibid. No. 3; and again, No. 7, to King Edward the Elder. § "King Edward VI." ibid.

‖ Burton, (see p. 9,) by some mistake called this quartering Bullen. The heraldic legend respecting the arms of Loraine is that "Godfrey de Boulogne, shooting against David's Tower in Jerusalem, at one draught of his bow broched three feetless birds, called Alerions, upon his arrow, and thereupon assumed in his shield, Or, three alerions argent on a bend gules; which the house of Loraine, descending from his race, continue to this day." (Camden's Remaines, p. 214.) Mr. Planché (now Rouge Croix Pursuivant) with greater probability suggests that "The bend may have been charged with eagles on the marriage of Matthew Duke of Loraine with the sister of the Emperor Frederick Barbarossa, or by their son Simon II., in token of his descent from a member of the imperial family:" and that the birds were afterwards called alerions instead of eagles, because the word ALERION is an anagram of LORAINE.—Pursuivant of Arms, 1852, p. 87.

which remained in the window until the glazing was recently renewed.* They were ornamented with two of the royal badges; one the *Rose en Soleil*, the well-known device of King Edward the Fourth, which he assumed after the meteoric appearance of a triple sun at the battle of Mortimer's Cross, and the other a *Rose within a Fetter-lock*. The Fetter-lock is a device borne, with several combinations, by the House of York, and often with a Falcon, but I do not remember to have met with it elsewhere inclosing a Rose.†

The windows in the North wall of the Chapel were nearly filled with the shields of Katharine Duchess of Norfolk the lady of Beaumanor, and of various members of her own family, the equally numerous and powerful house of Neville—an assemblage remarkable at once as typifying so many great personages, and as exemplifying one of the most characteristic and important usages of ancient heraldic blason. I allude to the employment of Differences, or Marks of Affiliation and Cadency.

These distinctions arose at a very early period of the Art of Blason: for, as coat-armour was originally strictly personal, although hereditary, it became necessary for younger sons, and even for the eldest son during his father's lifetime, to vary the family coat, in some obvious and conspicuous manner. In the first ages of English blason, such differences were more considerable than they have been in subsequent times. They were made in a variety of ways—by placing a label or a bend over the original coat, by surrounding it with a plain or indented bordure, by altering or counterchanging the tinctures, or by sprinkling the whole or certain portions of the coat with some small device or charge.

It would occupy us too long on the present occasion to trace out all these several methods by which coat-armour was distinguished and multiplied,‡ though the investigation would neither be uninteresting nor unprofitable in its developement of the early gentilitial

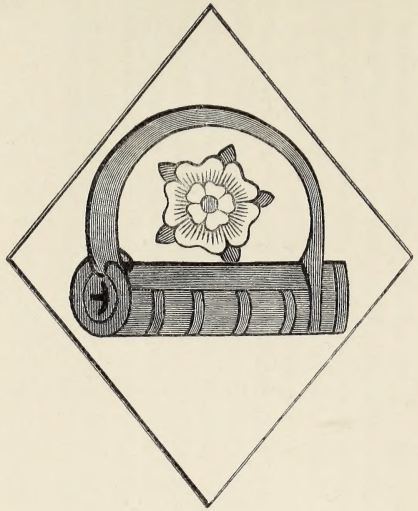
* Some small shields of Herrick and May were here inserted, temp. Jas. I.

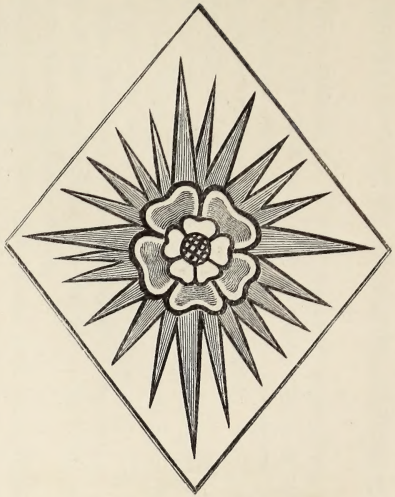
† In 1861 I observed a second example of this Badge in a window at Thorney Abbey church, co. Lincoln. It was placed between two of the Rose en Soleil.—(J. G. N., *Aug.* 1864.)

‡ I have since pursued this subject in some remarks published in *The Herald and Genealogist* Part VII. for November 1863, pp. 32-52, under the following heads:—

1. Differencing by change of Tinctures.
2. „ a Label.
3. „ a Bordure.
4. „ a Bend.
5. „ Gerating, *i.e.*, powdering or sprinkling the field with crosslets or other small charges.
6. Differencing by Charges in chief, or on the ordinaries.
7. „ Charges from the coats of Allies.
8. „ a Quarter or Canton.
9. „ a single small charge.
10. „ Augmentation.

(J. G. N., *August*, 1864.)





QUARRIES OF THE WINDOWS OF WOODHOUSE CHAPEL.

antiquities of this county.* I will content myself by remarking that the only mode of differencing now recognised, or used during the last three centuries, has been by the superposition of a small charge upon some prominent part of the shield. In earlier times these small charges were used for the same purpose in greater quantities. When placed on the field, they were either semée or scattered over its surface; or arranged round its margin in the form technically termed an orle, which was especially the case with martlets;† or else three were set in chief.‡ In other cases they were placed upon the ordinaries, as the fess, chevron, or chief, or upon a label introduced to bear them.

Again, a single charge for difference was sometimes deemed sufficient, provided it was placed in a prominent and conspicuous spot, as upon the shoulder of a lion or other rampant animal, or in the very centre of the shield, as on the fess of the Beauchamps and the saltire of the Nevilles.

A series of brothers of the Beauchamp family, formerly represented in the windows of the church at Warwick,§ clothed in their surcoats of arms, was pointed out by Sir Henry Spelman in his Aspilogia as an early example of this the modern system of differencing. They were the sons of Thomas Beauchamp, third Earl of Warwick, who died in 1369: and were distinguished by a Label, a Crescent, a Mullet, a Martlet, an Annulet, and a Fleur-de-lis (placed in each case upon the Fess of the Beauchamp arms). Now, these agree with the first six of the nine Differences which are enumerated in all modern treatises on Heraldry, and which, with the addition of the Rose, Cross Moline, and Double Quatrefoil, are specified by

* The Nevilles of Leicestershire in the reign of Edward the Second present three distinct varieties of differencing,—by a bordure, by small charges in chief, and by a label:—

Sire Robert de Nevile, de goules, a une fesse endenté de argent, od la bordure endenté de or.

Sire Felip de Nevile, de goules, a une fesse endenté de argent, en le chef iij moles (*i.e.*, mullets) de or.

Sire Richard de Nevile, de goules, a une fesse endenté de argent, a un label de azure. (Roll temp. Edward the Second. In the History of Leicestershire, introduction to vol. i., p. xliii. and in the accompanying plate, the arms of Philip are erroneously made the same as those of his brother Richard.)

These were the Nevilles of Enderby, whose coat is otherwise blazoned as four fusils in fess, and that such was its first design is shown by an ancient seal engraved in the History of Leicestershire, vol. iv. plate xxv. It is that of Philip de Aubeney, in the reign of Henry the Third, which was attached to the charter whereby he gave to his nephew Ralph de Neville all his manor of Endredeby. Its device is a row of four lozenges or fusils, with a cross above and a flower below, but *not* placed upon a shield. From this device the coat of the Nevilles of Enderby was evidently formed. In 14 Edw. I. Robert de Neville sealed with the four fusils and a bordure charged with roundles (engraved in the same plate, fig. 2, from the Harleian Charter 83. A. 20); and Burton saw in Enderby church another variety,—"Gules, three fusils in fess argent, a bordure engrailed or."

† As in the coat of Paynell, noticed in pp. 321, 334.

‡ As the mullets in the coat of Sir Philip de Neville, as above.

§ Destroyed by the Puritan soldiers of Colonel Purefoy, June 14, 1642 (*Mercurius Rusticus*); but engraved in Dugdale's History of Warwickshire.

Gerard Legh in his Accedens of Armory 1562, and previously in the Boke of St. Alban's, as the distinctions by which "nyne brethren may beare their father's coate in his life-time." But the Beauchamps thus figured do not, as regards the order of birth of the brothers, conform with the order laid down by Gerard Legh: nor (as Dugdale shows) do their christian names altogether agree with the Earl's known family. Therefore this example is not satisfactory to show that Gerard Legh's system of differencing was established in the fourteenth century.

The various differences placed upon the saltire of Neville, as they formerly were displayed in the Chapel of Woodhouse, present a series of a similar kind; for in them also we find the Label, the Crescent, the Martlet, the Mullet, the Fleur-de-lis, and other charges, but still not entirely in conformity with the regulations laid down by Gerard Legh: and which indeed, I am convinced, were never generally acknowledged,* either before his time or since, though I cannot, without overburdening this paper, develope all my reasons for that conclusion.

I shall proceed, however, to investigate, as far as possible, the several differences borne by the Nevilles upon the saltire of their first armsbearing ancestor, Robert fitz Maldred.

Besides the great house of Neville Earl of Westmerland, (from which sprang the Earls of Salisbury, Warwick, Kent, and Northumberland, and the Barons of Furnival, Fauconberg, Latimer, and Bergavenny,) there were other families of Neville in various parts of England, that had totally different coat-armour;† but in a roll of arms of the reign of Edward III. the saltire-bearing Nevilles are thus distinguished:—

Monsire Rauph de Neville port de gules une salter d'argent.

Monsire de Neville de Hornby port le revers.

Monsire Alexander de Neville port de gules, une salter d'argent, une martlet sable.

At one time therefore, it appears, Alexander Neville bore a martlet for distinction upon his saltire; but there is a seal preserved at Durham, used in 1340, and inscribed *Sigillum Alexandri de Neville*, on which *the* saltire is charged with a *crescent*.‡

* I mean, in actual use. The heralds of the sixteenth century may have adopted them to some extent in their Visitation and other Pedigrees.

† Even in Leicestershire, besides the Nevilles of Enderby, already noticed in p. 325, there were three very different coats:

William de Neville, Ermine, un chief indenté de azure.

Hugo de Neville, Gules, un chevron de ermine.

Will' de Neville de Wimondeswould, Gueulles, crusulé fitchés trois fleures de liz argent.—Hist. of Leicestershire, vol. i. pp. xliv. xlv.

The Nevilles of Holt, which did not come there until 1476, but were seated at Rolleston in Nottinghamshire as early as the reign of Edward the First, bore, Gules, a saltire ermine—the same as the Nevilles of Raskelfe in the North.

‡ The shield is upheld by two bears, muzzled, and chained to a tree, upon which the shield is suspended. This seal is engraved in Surtees's History of Durham, Plate 9 of Seals, fig. 4, and in Drummond's Noble British Families, Family of Neville, p. 6.

This Alexander was seated at Raskelfe, co. York, and was a younger brother to Ralph Neville of Raby. His nephew Alexander (son of Ralph) became Archbishop of York (1374—1388,) and upon his archiepiscopal seal his saltire is also differenced by a crescent.*

Thomas Neville, Lord Furnival, brother to the first Earl of Westmerland, bore a *martlet* on his saltire, borrowed, it may be conjectured, from the coat of Furnival, which was a bend between six martlets: he having married the daughter and sole heir of William the last Baron Furnival of the male line.

His brother, John Lord Latimer, is supposed to have borne a *mullet;* and it is for him, it is said, that the coat of Neville so distinguished quarters with the cross flory of Latimer in the cloisters at Canterbury.†

We next come to the children of Ralph first Earl of Westmerland,‡ who bore charges of which many appeared in the glass at Woodhouse:—

1. Sir John Neville, his eldest son, who died before him, must have borne a *label;* but when his son Ralph, the second Earl, became the head of the family in 1425, he would require the distinction no longer; and accordingly, in 1437, we meet with a seal of "Ralph lord of Raby"—really the second Earl of Westmerland, but whose title as Earl was not then yet recognised, without any difference.

2. Sir Ralph Neville of Oversley, the second son of the first Earl, bore also a *label,* which was *charged with three hurts.* This label, being placed on the upper part of the shield, and not on the saltire, was (like the saltire) argent. According to Tonge's Visitation of Yorkshire in 1530, in the pedigree of Gascoyne of Galthrop, the Nevilles of Oversley differenced with a lily slipped.

3. Richard Earl of Salisbury, the Earl's eldest son by his second marriage with Joane Beaufort, also bore a *label,*

* Engraved on the same page of Drummond. In Bedford's Blazon of Episcopacy, 1858, p. 111, the bishop's distinction is (erroneously) said to have been a *bordure.*

† Willement's Heraldic Notices of Canterbury Cathedral, p, 78; and Drummond, Family of Neville, p. 27.

‡ The Earl of Westmerland had a numerous progeny by each of his wives: by Margaret Stafford two sons and five daughters, by Joane Beaufort nine sons and five daughters—in all twenty-one children. When we further consider that six of his sons were peers of the realm; that of the daughters three were duchesses, one a countess, and two baronesses, he must be regarded as one of the most remarkable English fathers that ever lived. He was grandfather of two Kings of England, Edward the Fourth and Richard the Third through Cecily, the youngest of his twenty-one children.

sigillum : ricardi : nevill : comitis : warwicie : domini : de : bergavenny :
C.L.GHORN

which was tinctured *gobonée, argent and azure,* in allusion to his maternal descent, the family of Beaufort being (as before noticed) allowed to use the royal coat of France and England differenced by a bordure compony or gobony,—the same which is still borne by their present representatives, the family of Somerset, Duke of Beaufort. On the seal of this Earl, which is here introduced from Camden's Visitation of Huntingdonshire, (published by the Camden Society in 1848,) the arms of Neville with this difference are seen marshalled in the third grand quarter, the first quarter containing Beauchamp and Clare quarterly; the second Montagu and Monthermer quarterly; and the fourth Newburgh (or the Earldom of Warwick) and Despenser quarterly. The crests and supporters are for Warwick and Montagu.

4. George Lord Latimer, the next son, bore on his saltire an *ogress,* or sable pellet, according to the best (but not contemporary) authorities; and yet, on the monument of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, in the Beauchamp Chapel at Warwick, the cross of Latimer quarters Neville differenced by two annulets interlaced,* which was certainly the distinction of his brother Robert. On the monument† of John the last Lord Latimer at Well in Richmondshire, (who died in 1577,) his saltire bears the ogress; but at Hackney the arms of the same lord are said to have been distinguished by an annulet sable.‡ There is so great a resemblance between a black ball (or ogress) and a black ring (or annulet), particularly when defaced by age, that we cannot be surprised at these differences of description.§

5. Robert Neville, Bishop of Durham, certainly bore a gimmel ring, or *two annulets interlaced azure,*‖ for they appear on his episcopal seals both for Salisbury and Durham,¶ and a third time

* That is, on the shields figured 8 and 9 in Gough's Sepulchral Monuments, vol. ii. plate xxxvii*; but the rings are there omitted; which is only one of several errors in the plate.

† Engraved in Whitaker's Richmondshire, vol. ii p. 83, and in Drummond's Noble British Families, House of Neville. p. 14.

‡ Church Notes by Nicholas Charles, Lancaster Herald, in MS. Lansdowne 874, f. 121.

§ This point is discussed, but not determined, by Mr. W. Hylton Dyer Longstaffe, F.S.A., the editor of Tonge's Heraldic Visitation of the Northern Counties in 1530, (Surtees' Society, 1863) p. 20, *sub tit.* Pedigree of the Lord Latymer.

‖ Mr. Longstaffe has informed us that he has more than once seen these annulets in old glass, coloured, the one blue, and the other red.

¶ Engraved in Hoare's History of Salisbury, folio, 1843; also in Drummond, p. 10, but he is there miscalled Archbishop of York.

on his signet ring with the motto **En grace affie.*** The meaning of this singular device is unknown. It was not personally peculiar to the Bishop, nor allusive to his ecclesiastical functions, but a device used also by other members of his family. As already mentioned, it appears at Warwick for his brother the Lord Latimer; and it also occurs as a badge (distinct from the armorial coat) on the seal† of his brother Lord Fauconberg.

SEAL OF WILLIAM LORD FAUCONBERG.

6. William Neville, usually known as Lord Fauconberg, but who shortly before his death in 1462 was created Earl of Kent, certainly bore a *mullet*;‡ for his garter-plate at Windsor displayed, quarterly, a lion rampant for Fauconberg, and a saltire charged with a mullet; and the same quarterings occurred in the chapel of Saint George at the church of Allhallows in Northampton.§ On his seal Neville is placed in the first quarter, and Fauconberg in the second.

* Engraved in Surtees's Durham, Private Seals, Plate II, fig. 7, and in Drummond, p. 9.

† For the engraving of this seal (first published in the Archæologia, vol. xxxiii, p. 346,) I am indebted to the Society of Antiquaries. Its matrix is now in their museum, having been presented by Charles Weld, esq., Assistant Secretary to the Royal Society.

‡ Mr. Rowland, in his History of the Neville Family, folio, 1830, gives Lord Fauconberg, at p. 65, the difference of an *annulet*, but at pp. 61, 85, of a mullet. The first was perhaps a misprint.

§ MS. Lansdown 874, f. 58 b.

7. Edward Neville, Lord Abergavenny, who is supposed to have been the youngest son of this potent and illustrious race, adopted a *rose* as his distinction:* and it is still borne by the only remaining branch of this great house,—now enjoying the title of Earl of Abergavenny. This rose, it has been suggested, was allusive to his mother, as allied to the red rose of Lancaster.†

8. Sir John Neville, second son of John Lord Neville, and nephew to the preceding brothers, on his seal in 1437 bears a *fleur-de-lis* on the centre of his saltire, and the same on his crest of a bull's head.‡ The fleur-de-lis was azure.§

A fleur-de-lis was also borne by a Sir William Neville, whose seal ‖ occurs with the date 1390. On either side of the crest is a star.

9. Sir Thomas Neville, brother to John, in like manner bears a *cinquefoil* on his saltire, and a cinquefoil on his crest.¶

The two seals of Sir John and Sir Thomas Neville are similar in design, and both of them are said to have been used in the year 1437.

The coat of Neville occurred in the windows of Woodhouse Chapel in nearly all these varieties, particularly on the North side, with the description of which we now proceed.

1. *Gules, a saltire argent*, for Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmerland, (ob. 1425,) the Duchess of Norfolk's father; or for his grandson Ralph the second Earl, who was living when the glass was made in 1450, and who died in 1485.

2. England with a label argent, being the arms of the dukedom of Norfolk ** (derived from Thomas of Brotherton, son of King

* His seal, to a deed dated 1423, bears a quartered coat, the first and fourth quarters being Beauchamp (differenced by a crescent) and Warwick or Newburgh quarterly, and the second and third quarters the Neville saltire charged with a rose; the crest of a bull's head is also charged with a rose. This seal is engraved in Rowland's History of the Neville Family, p. 70, No, 4, and in Drummond's Genealogy, p. 17. He was Lord Abergavenny in right of his wife, Elizabeth Beauchamp, only child of the Earl of Worcester, and heiress of Bergavenny through her mother. The monuments of George third Lord Bergavenny, K.G., and of his brother Sir Thomas Neville, both at Mereworth, in Kent, also display the saltire with the rose. (Drummond, p. 18.)

† The Lords Abergavenny subsequently used as a badge *two staples, connected, argent and or;* but these were of a totally different form to the rings, as well as of other metals; they were taken from the end of the chain of the Neville bull, where they were placed to pin him to the ground.

‡ Surtees, History of Durham, iv. 129.

§ Drummond, p. 11.

‖ Engraved in Laing's Catalogue of Scottish Seals, 4to. 1850, p. 107, and in Drummond, p. 9.

¶ Ibid, and Surtees, Plate 8 of Seals, fig. 9.

** Misattributed to Edward Duke of York, in History of Leicestershire, iii, 116.

Edward the Third,) impaling Neville, for KATHARINE DUCHESS OF NORFOLK herself.

3. *Or, a lion rampant azure*, and *Gules, three lucies argent*, being Percy and Lucy quarterly, for HENRY EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND, (slain at the first battle of St. Alban's in 1455,) husband of Alianor Neville, a sister of the Duchess of Norfolk. It is remarkable that this coat did not impale Neville; but we know for certain that it did not, for this is one of the shields still remaining.

4. France and England within a bordure argent, impaling Neville, for ANNE DUCHESS OF BUCKINGHAM, another sister of the Duchess of Norfolk, and wife of Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham,* who was permitted to relinquish his paternal coat for that which typified his descent from the blood royal. The same impalement was placed in the Lady Chapel at Canterbury, and also in the Chapel of our Lady Undercroft there.†

5. Neville, differenced by *a label gobony argent and azure*, being the coat of the duchess's brother RICHARD EARL OF SALISBURY (beheaded in 1460). He bore a label as the eldest son of his father's second marriage, and it was tinctured (as I have already noticed) in allusion to the bordure which distinguished the arms of his mother the lady Joane Beaufort.

6. Neville, the saltire being charged with *an ogress*, or sable roundle. This was probably for another brother, GEORGE LORD LATIMER (ob. 1469).

7. Neville, the saltire charged with *a mullet*, for WILLIAM LORD FAUCONBERG, another brother, who towards the close of his career was created Earl of Kent in 1462, and died a few months after. I have already mentioned the proofs of his bearing the mullet.

8. Neville, the saltire charged with *two annulets interlaced azure*, for ROBERT NEVILLE, BISHOP OF DURHAM, (ob. 1457,) another brother (as noticed in p. 328).

9. *Barry of twelve argent and azure, three chaplets gules*, for RALPH LORD GREYSTOCK, (ob. 1487,) a nephew of the Duchess of Norfolk, being the son of John Lord Greystock and Elizabeth Ferrers, who was one of the two daughters of Joane Beaufort the daughter of John of Ghent, by her first husband Robert Ferrers of Oversley, or Ousley, in the county of Warwick.

10. Neville, the saltire charged with *a fleur-de-lis sable*. This was the distinction of Sir John Neville, another nephew of the

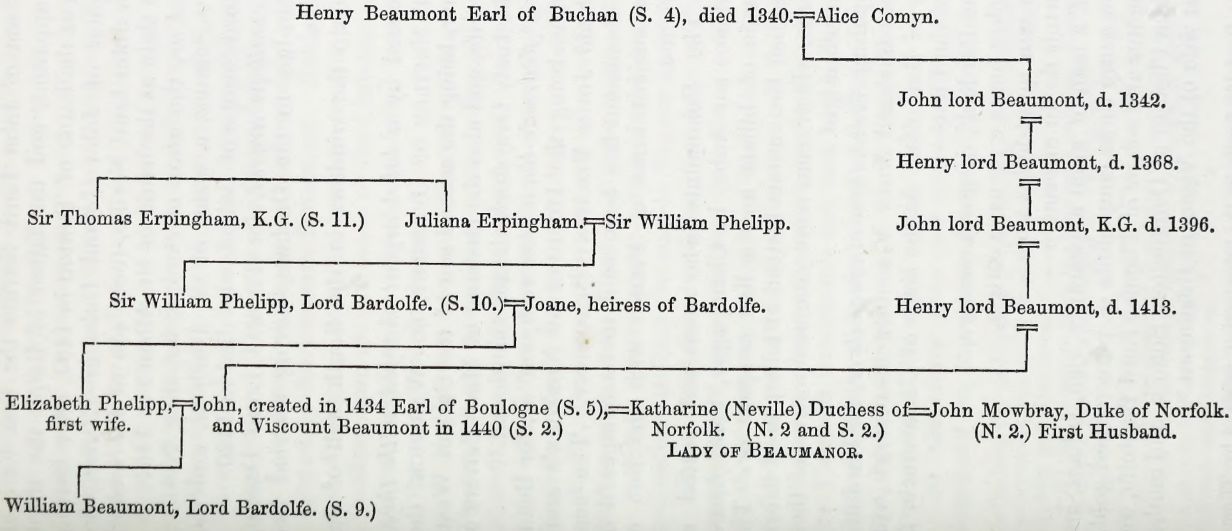
* In the Paston Letters, vol. i p. 17, is one addressed by the Duke of Buckingham, "To the right worshipful and with all mine heart right entirely beloved brother the Viscount Beaumont." The Editor, Sir John Fenn, imagined that this affectionate address was suggested merely by the circumstance of their being brethren in the order of the Garter; but it is evident they considered themselves brothers from having married two sisters.

† Willement's Heraldic Notices of Canterbury Cathedral, pp. 63, 161. This coat is misassigned to Humphrey Duke of Gloucester in History of Leicestershire, iii 116.

Pedigree of Beaumont.

WITH REFERENCES TO THE WINDOWS OF WOODHOUSE CHAPEL.

(N. stands for the North windows, and S. for the South.)



Duchess, the second son of John Lord Neville the first Earl of Westmerland's heir apparent, and the father of Ralph the third Earl. He was slain at the battle of Towton in 1461, after having married Anne daughter of John Holand Duke of Exeter, the widow of his nephew John Lord Neville, (only son of the second Earl,) who had been slain at the battle of St. Alban's in 1451.

11. *Azure, a bend or*, the arms of Scrope, impaling Neville, for MARGARET LADY SCROPE, a sister of the Duchess, and the widow of Richard Lord Scrope of Bolton, who died in 1420.

12. *Gules, three escallops argent*, for THOMAS LORD DACRE, (ob. 1457,) brother-in-law to the Duchess, having married her sister Philippa Neville.

We now proceed to the windows in the South wall of the Chapel:—

1. Neville, differenced by *a label argent charged with three hurts*, for SIR RALPH NEVILLE OF OVERSLEY, CO. WARWICK, the Duchess's half-brother, being the second son of the Earl of Westmerland by his first wife, and also the husband of Mary Ferrers of Oversley, sister to the Lady Greystock already mentioned.

2. *Azure, semée of fleurs-de-lis, a lion rampant or*, for Beaumont, impaling Neville, being the DUCHESS OF NORFOLK'S arms with her living husband JOHN VISCOUNT BEAUMONT. The coat of Beaumont has been said to be composed of the ancient arms of France with the lion of Brienne.

The Beaumonts who remained seated at Brienne sur Aube, in Champagne, bore, Azure, semée of billets and a lion rampant or. The English Beaumonts instead of billets used fleurs-de-lis, which seem more commemorative of their French origin.

3. Beaumont impaling *Azure, three cinquefoils or*, for Bardolfe, being the arms of her husband JOHN VISCOUNT BEAUMONT with those of the Barony of Bardolfe. At the siege of Carlaverock, in the reign of Edward the First—

Hue Bardoulf, de grant manière,
Riches homs e preus, e cortois,
En asur quint-fulles trois
Portoit de fin or esmeré—

"Hugh Bardoulf, a man of great appearance, rich, valiant, and courteous, bore upon azure three cinquefoils of pure refined gold." Joane, younger daughter and coheir of Thomas Lord Bardolfe, was the wife of Sir William Phelipp of Dennington, Suffolk, and mother of Elizabeth the first wife of the Viscount Beaumont.*

* See much about the Bardolfe family in the introduction prefixed by Thomas Stapleton, esq. V.P.S.A. to the Liber de Antiquis Legibus, printed for the Camden, Society, 1846; also in the Record of the House of Gournay, 1848, 4to. pp. 188 *et seq.*

4. *Azure, three garbs or*, the arms of THE EARLDOM OF BUCHAN, once enjoyed by Henry Lord Beaumont, in the reign of Edward the Second, as already mentioned. His descendants continued to display its insignia. John Lord Beaumont, K.G. who died in 1396, bore the arms of Beaumont and Comyn (or Buchan) quarterly, as they still remain on his plate in St. George's Chapel at Windsor.*

5. A coat which Burton describes as *Or, a banner or penon gules;* remarking that it agrees with the arms of the Comtes of Auvergne, which Leland describes from an old roll as *Or, a gonfanon gules.* This was clearly intended to typify THE EARLDOM OF BOULOGNE, which, as we have already seen, was at one period enjoyed by the Viscount Beaumont. Baldwin, Comte of Boulogne and Auvergne, younger brother to the celebrated Godfrey de Bouillon, bore the gonfanon of the Christian army in the crusade,† and we therefore see why the gonfanon was taken to be the arms of the county of Boulogne.

6. *Azure, two bars gemelles or.* This coat, as blazoned by Burton,‡ is not recognised in the ordinaries; but it resembles the ancient coat of MEINELL, which was, Azure, three gemelles and a chief or. I have been unable to trace that either the Duchess of Norfolk or Lord Beaumont had any connection with that family.

7. *Or, two bars azure, an orle of martlets gules.* Assigned by Burton to PAYNELL,§ but its allusion I have not ascertained.

8. *Or, a saltire azure.* This shield is also inexplicable. The ordinaries attribute the coat to PHILIP AP VYCHAN, of Wales.

These three shields might, if we knew their real intention, illustrate some of my preliminary remarks in which I stated that it was usual, in such assemblages of armorial insignia, to commemorate political as well as family alliances.

9. *Azure, three cinquefoils or*, for WILLIAM LORD BARDOLFE, the Viscount Beaumont's son and heir by his first wife;‖ who was born at Edenham, in the county of Lincoln, on the 23rd April 1438, and, by the designation of Sir William Beaumont lord Bardolfe, was proved to be of full age in 1460.

10. *Quarterly gules and argent, in the first quarter an eagle displayed or,* the paternal coat of SIR WILLIAM PHELIPP LORD

particularly the pedigree in p. 192, showing Miles Stapleton, Lord Beaumont, to be the representative of the Anglo-Norman Barons of Gournay through the families of Bardolfe and Beaumont.

* Of this nobleman there is a biography in Beltz's Memorials of the Garter, p. 345.

† Indice Armorial, par Geliot, fol. 1635, p. 208,

‡ In Nichols's History of Leicestershire, iii. 116, it is blasoned as, Azure, two bars or, and attributed to Burdett. This coat was one of those erected by the Abbot of Leicester in his chapel of Stoughton, as mentioned in a subsequent note.

§ "Sir William Paynel, de argent, a ij barres de sable, a les merelos de goules en la maner de bordure assis." Roll of Arms temp. Edw. II., among the knights of Wiltshire and Hampshire.

‖ See the Inquisition printed by Mr. Stapleton in his Introduction to the Liber de Antiquis Legibus, p. cciii. See also the memoir mentioned in a subsequent note (p. 335).

Bardolfe, Knight of the Garter, successively Treasurer of the Household and Chamberlain to King Henry the Sixth, the father of the Viscount Beaumont's first wife, and the husband of Joane heiress of the barony of Bardolfe. This shield is one of those remaining in the windows.

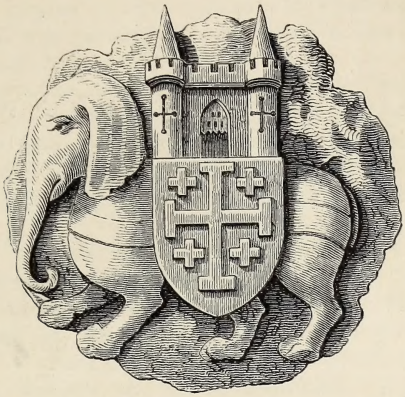
11. *Vert, an inescocheon within an orle of martlets argent.* This was the coat borne by Sir Thomas Erpingham, Knight of the Garter, to whom Sir William Phelipp (being his nephew) was found heir in the year 1428. When it became customary to multiply titles of peerage, we find the later lords Beaumont using those of Comyn, Bardolfe, Phelipp, and Erpingham; as in the epitaph of Elizabeth Viscountess Beaumont and afterwards Countess of Oxford, at Wivenhoe in Essex, written in the reign of Henry the Eighth. It states her to have been "first married to the noble lord William Vycomt Beaumont, lord Comyn, Bardolph, Phelipp, and Erpingham;" and the quarterings of the family are there thus arranged: 1. Beaumont; 2, Bardolfe and Phelipp quarterly; 3. Erpingham; 4. Comyn.

12. *Per pale argent and vert, an elephant bearing a castle or.* This was the badge or cognizance of the Beaumont family,* and was commemorative of their descent from John de Brienne, King of Jerusalem, and from his second wife, the Infanta Donna Berenguela, sister of Saint Ferdinand III. King of Castile and Leon, and daughter of Alphonso IX. King of Leon and of Berenguela Queen of Castile. The canting, or punning, allusion, it will be perceived, was to the *castle*, which was the invariable accompaniment of a medieval elephant. The sepulchral effigy† of William second Viscount Beaumont, at Wivenhoe in Essex, is represented with his feet upon an elephant and castle, and broom-cods on the ground; the latter being further significant of his descent from Alianora, daughter of Henry Plantagenet, Earl of Lancaster, Leicester, and Derby, the wife of the second Lord Beaumont. John de Brienne was elected King of Jerusalem in 1209; and in the cloisters of Canterbury Cathedral one of the bosses‡ represents the elephant and castle surmounted by a shield of the arms assigned to Jerusalem, viz. a cross potent between four smaller crosses humettée. Henry fifth Lord Beaumont, who was Constable of Dover Castle and Warden of the Cinque Ports in the reign of Richard the Second, bore this coat of Jerusalem in the first quarter with his own, and it

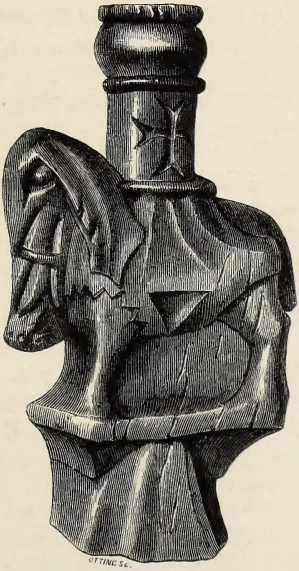
* In History of Leicestershire, iii. 116, and again in p. 117, it is erroneously attributed to Corbet.

† Lithographed in the volume of Monumental Brasses, published by the Cambridge Camden Society, 1846, 4to. The marginal inscription is also interspersed with castellated elephants. Above the Viscount's head is a shield of four quarters: 1. Beaumont; 2. Comyn; 3. Phelipp; 4. Bardolfe. This plate is accompanied by a valuable memoir, contributed by the Rev. Roger Dawson Duffield, of Downing College.

‡ Engraved in the frontispiece to Willement's Heraldic Notices of Canterbury Cathedral, and given in the next sheet of Illustrations.



BOSS IN THE CLOISTERS AT CANTERBURY.



POPPY-HEAD FROM WOODHOUSE CHAPEL.

so occurs in three places in the cloisters at Canterbury.* The same quarterly coat was formerly to be seen in the windows of Loughborough Church.†

We have now surveyed all the windows in their arrangement as Burton saw them. Of the whole nine-and-twenty shields which he describes, there are now remaining eight, and one more hereafter mentioned, which have lately been collected by Mr. Perry-Herrick at the east end of the Chapel, in two windows on the north and one on the south.

Some of the "foremost postes of the seates" described by Burton, or poppy-heads as they are now generally termed, after having been cut off at some re-arrangement of the pewing, are still in existence. Four of them are engraved in the History of Leicestershire, vol. iv. plate XVIII. One is the elephant and castle of the Beaumonts, backed by five sun-flowers. Another is an antelope with its horns bent downwards and gorged with a coronet, one of the "beasts" of the royal house of Lancaster, supposed to have been derived from the family of Bohun. The third a grotesque human head; and the fourth a bunch of foliage, terminating with a small head of a woman. I could not, on recent inquiry, ascertain where these carvings now are; but two other elephants are preserved in the mansion-house at Beaumanor; and two more are in the possession of the Rev. John S. Hiley, of Woodhouse. One of the last, as being perhaps the most effective in execution, has been chosen for representation in the annexed engraving.

Burton mentions another "post," carved with the figure of "a lion seyant," or sitting. The crest of Beaumont was a lion statant, or standing, on a chapeau d'estat, or cap of dignity.

In the early annals of Beaumanor there are various evidences of that beautiful spot having been visited and inhabited by several persons alike important in their own day and memorable in the pages of history. Among these John Lord Beaumont, the premier Viscount of England, and his wife Katharine Duchess of Norfolk, one of the numerous grandchildren of John of Ghent, "time-honoured Lancaster," are especially to be remembered.‡ We have seen that they re-edified the Chapel of Woodhouse about the year 1450, and I may add that there still exists a court roll at Beaumanor for a court held by the duchess twelve years later, in the year 1462. Though her husband had fallen in the battle of Northampton in 1460, and his estates were shortly after confiscated by the triumphant house of York, when they were conferred on William Lord Hastings, the ancestor of the Earls of Huntingdon, yet the Duchess of Norfolk retained for her life Beaumanor and

* Ibid. pp. 99, 134, 135. † Burton, edit. 1622, p. 182.

‡ Leland, when speaking of the Beaumonts, says, "The chiefest house of this Lord Beaumonte, as I learnid, was at Beaumaner in Leyrcestershire." Itinerary, vol. vi. f. 71.

some other lordships that had been settled upon her in dower; and it is not to be forgotten that she was still more nearly related to the Yorkist King than she had been to the Lancastrian one, for one of her sisters, whom we have not hitherto had occasion to name, was Cecily Duchess of York, the mother of King Edward the Fourth.

These two sisters, Cecily Duchess of York and Katharine Duchess of Norfolk, are ladies as memorable as any in our English annals, if we consider what they must have witnessed and endured as the long-lived contemporaries and the near relatives of the two contending branches of the royal house, which were from generation to generation engaged, at oft-recurring intervals, in a fluctuating and sanguinary struggle. The long rank of their illustrious brothers, of whom five were temporal peers of the realm and another Bishop of Durham, we have already reviewed, as the windows of Woodhouse Chapel once displayed them. The Duchess Cecily was the mother of eight sons and three daughters; of whom two were Kings of England, one a Duke, and three Duchesses; she witnessed the violent deaths or grievous misfortunes of nearly all this numerous family. She survived the fatal field of Wakefield, in which her husband was slain; that of Mortimer's Cross, which gave her son Edward the crown; his temporary dethronement and exile; the murder of her grandson King Edward the Fifth; the fall of her younger son King Richard on the field of Bosworth, and all the other crimes and tragedies of the times,—one tithe of which, it might have been supposed, would have broken the heart or destroyed the intellect of any ordinary woman. She lived not only to see her granddaughter Elizabeth partaker of the throne with the successful representative of the Lancastrian line; but she further survived the birth of her great-grandson King Henry the Eighth; dying in 1495, thirty-five years after her husband, and certainly at a very advanced age.

But the life and experiences of her sister the lady of Beaumanor were scarcely less extraordinary. She must have been cast in the same iron mould, and equally tempered to encounter afflictions and adversities. Katharine Duchess of Norfolk was the wife of four husbands:—

The first was John Mowbray the second Duke of Norfolk of his family, to which dignity he was restored in 1424; and who died on the 19th of October, 1432, leaving John his son and successor.

The second was Sir Thomas Strangways, by whom the Duchess had a daughter named Joane, who was married first to Sir William Willoughby, and secondly to William Lord Berkeley, who was created Earl of Nottingham in 1483, and in 1488 (after the death of his wife,) Marquess of Berkeley.

The Duchess's third husband was John Viscount Beaumont, the principal points of whose history have been already noticed.

And the fourth was Sir John Wydville, a younger brother of the Queen of Edward IV. This last marriage took place in 1464-5, when the Duchess is said to have been nearly eighty years of age, and her bridegroom about twenty: probably her age was somewhat exaggerated;* but the match was so unequal as to be accounted scandalous even in an age when alliances were usually formed rather with regard to property than to person. It is thus indignantly recorded in the Annals of William of Wyrcestre: "Mense Januarii, Katerina ducissa Norffolciæ, juvencula ætatis fere iiij^{xx} annorum, maritata est Johanni Widevile, fratri Reginæ, ætatis xx annorum. Maritagium diabolicum! vindicta Bernardi inter eosdem postea patuit." The vengeance thus denounced upon this ill-sorted alliance was manifested by the fate of the youthful bridegroom, who, together with his father, Richard Earl Rivers, was beheaded by the Lancastrians at Northampton on the 12th August, 1469.

The aged Duchess was still living in the year 1482, as appears by the rolls of parliament,† but the year of her death I have not discovered.‡ Whether in her latter years she at all resided at Beaumanor, is now perhaps not to be ascertained; but the estate appears to have always remained in her possession as part of her dower.

Before her departure, she had witnessed the decease, in 1475, of her grandson John the fourth duke, the last male of the house of Mowbray; the betrothal of his infant heiress to Richard Duke of York, the second son of King Edward the Fourth; and the death of at least the bride of that youthful couple, if not the mysterious disappearance of the Duke with his brother King Edward in the Tower of London. It was then that the dignities of the house of Norfolk were divided between the families of Howard and Berkeley; John Lord Howard and William Viscount Berkeley being, through their respective mothers, the grandsons of the first Mowbray Duke of Norfolk. The former was created Earl Marshal and Duke of Norfolk, the latter Earl of Nottingham. These dignities were conferred on the same day, the 28th of June, 1483, shortly after the establishment of Richard the Third upon the throne.

The Lord Hastings, to whom the greater part of the Beaumont property was transferred under the Yorkist rule, had married

* Her first husband, the Duke of Norfolk, was born in 1390; her third, the Viscount Beaumont, in 1410. She gave birth to her son John, Duke of Norfolk, in 1415; and if we take her to have been then twenty, she may have been seventy, but not eighty, in 1465.

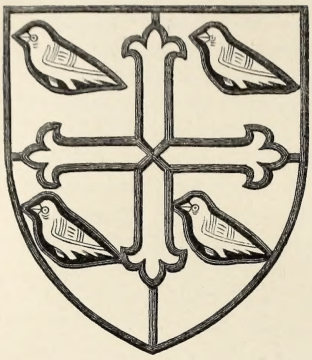
† See the acts for the benefit of Richard Duke of York, the widower of her great-grand-daughter Anne Mowbray (who was then deceased), and for William then Viscount Berkeley, the husband of her daughter Joane (Strangways), which mention rights of property contingent on her life, in the Rotuli Parl. vol. vi. p. 207.

‡ "My lady of Exeter (Anne, the King's sister) is dead, and it was said that both the old Duchess of Norfolk and the Countess of Oxford were dead, but it is not so yet."—Letter written 27 Jan. 15 Edw. IV. (1475) in the Paston Letters, ii. 191.

another Katherine Neville, the Duchess's niece, daughter of Richard Neville Earl of Salisbury and widow of William Lord Bonville. This, no doubt, was one plea for his soliciting, and obtaining, a grant of the Neville estates in this and other counties, which laid the foundation of the wide and predominant influence which the Hastings family long exercised in Leicestershire.

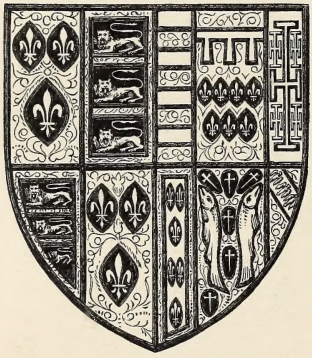
If I have succeeded in at all interesting you by these remarks on the old glass at Woodhouse, I hope it may help to show not only how desirable it is to preserve such memorials, but also that it is worth while to endeavour to understand them, as they generally convey some information and suggest more. Burton, at a time when the art of Heraldry was more cultivated and better understood than it is at present, kept this object in view, and thereby preserved much evidence that would otherwise have been lost to us. "Lastly, (he says in his Preface,) I have added all the Armes in all the Church windowes in the shire, and the inscriptions of the Tombes, which (for the most part) I have taken by my own view and travell,—to this end, for that perhaps they may rectifie Armories and Genealogies, and may give testimony, proofe, and end to many differences. For of my owne knowledge I can affirme, that the Antiquity of a Church window, for the proofe of a match and issue had, hath beene delivered in evidence to a Jury at an Assises, and been accepted."

NORFOLK.

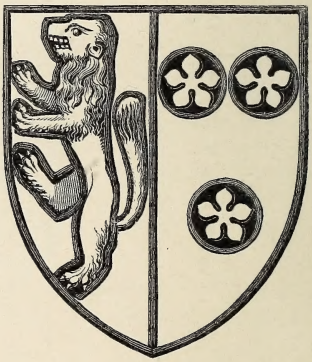


SAINT EDWARD.

KING HENRY VI.



QUEEN MARGARET OF ANJOU.



BEAUMONT AND BARDOLFE.

SHIELDS OF ARMS REMAINING IN THE WINDOWS OF

WOODHOUSE CHAPEL.

Present State of the Stained Glass in Woodhouse Chapel.

N the year 1858 Mr. Perry-Herrick entirely renewed the roof of Woodhouse Chapel, and rebuilt the tracery of the East window, according to its former pattern. Its five lights are now filled with whole-length figures of Our Saviour (in the centre) and the four Evangelists, and below them these five subjects: 1. The Agony in the Garden; 2. Christ bearing his Cross; 3. The Crucifixion; 4. The Resurrection; 5. The Ascension. This window was made by Mr. Hedgeland of London, and is a very pleasing specimen of his skill, both in design and execution.

On the North side the window next the East contains four of the ancient coats described in this memoir, viz.:

1. Edward the Confessor.
2. Henry the Sixth.
3. King Henry and Queen Margaret.
4. Beaumont impaling Bardolfe. (In the coat of Beaumont no traces of fleurs de lis remain.)

PHELIPP.

In the next window is one of the old coats, with three modern ones:

1. Phelipp.*

* This shield having been reversed in the window, and one of the Herrick quarterings (that of Mayo) having been placed in the third quarter (which had been broken), is so engraved in the History of Leicestershire, vol. iii. pl. xvii. No. 9. It is repeated, in its correct form, in pl. xviii. No. 29. The former plate contains the

2. Heyricke,—Argent, a fess vaire or and gules.

3. May,—Gules, a fess between ten billets or; for Joane May,* wife of Sir William Heyricke the refounder of the Chapel.

4. Herrick quartering Perry, for the present William Perry-Herrick, esquire; to whom the quartering of Perry† was granted by the College of Arms in 1853, pursuant to the will of his uncle Thomas Perry, esquire, of Eardisley Park, Herefordshire.

The first window on the South side contains four others of the antient shields:—

1. The Earl of Northumberland.

2. Gules, a cross argent.‡ The appearance of this coat is beyond our expectation, as it is not among those which were described by Burton: but it is apparently of coæval antiquity with the other shields. The coloured field being like them beautifully diapered. It was the emblem of the Knights Hospitallers, who had numerous estates in Leicestershire, and commanderies at Rothley and at Dalby on the Woulds.§

3. Neville, with remains of the difference of the sable mullet,—attributed in the preceding memoir to Lord Fauconberg.

4. Greystock.

The lights of the next adjoining window are occupied by whole-length figures of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, below which is this inscription:

arms as remaining in the windows when Mr. Nichols surveyed the chapel; in the latter, the shields were engraved from Burton's description. This repetition was evidently an inadvertence.

* Sister to Sir Humphrey May, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and to Elizabeth, wife of Sir Baptist Hickes, Viscount Campden.

† Barry of six or and gules, on a bend indented argent three lions passant sable, two flaunches ermine. Crest, A hind's head erased proper, semé of annulets or, in the mouth a pear-tree branch slipped proper, fructed or.

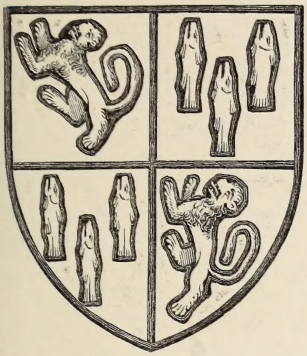
‡ Called, "Gules, a cross or, *Burnaville*," in History of Leicestershire, iii. 116, No. 12.

§ The Hospitallers reversed the ensign that had been previously worn by the Templars—a red cross on a white field, which still continued the badge of the English army under the designation of the cross of Saint George. It has been suggested with great probability that two figures in a window of the north aisle of York minster, which respectively bear these crosses, were intended not for individuals, but as representatives of the two leading military orders: and that the same were typified by two figures formerly in one of the windows of Bristol Cathedral, having the like insignia on their cyclases and shields, and armour of about the same period (1306). W. S. Walford, esq., F.S.A., in the Archæological Journal.

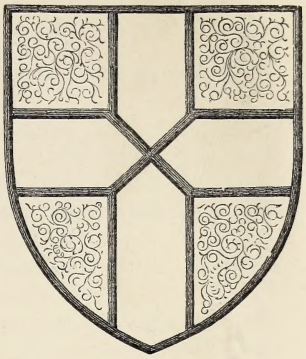
At Stoughton, since the seat of the Beaumonts, as Burton relates "the abbot and covent of Leicester built a most faire and beautifull Chappell, with an high spire steeple, the windowes curiously wrought with stories expressing the Benefactors' Armes." Of such as remained in his time Burton (Description of Leicestershire, p. 274) gives an account: and among them occur together—

Azure, a crosse or.
Argent, a crosse or.
Argent, a crosse guelles. [The Knights Templars.]
Guelles, a crosse argent. [The Knights Hospitallers.]

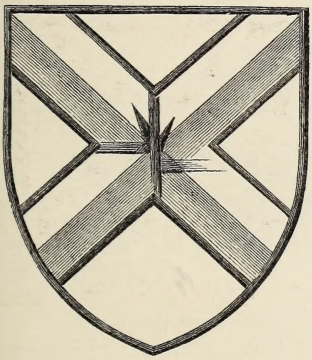
It will be found interesting to compare the other coats at Stoughton with those at Woodhouse.



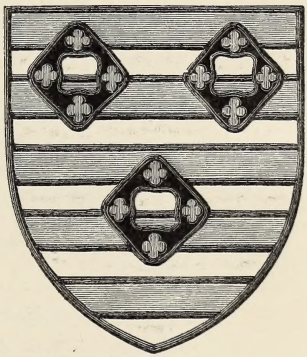
EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND.



KNIGHTS HOSPITALLERS.



LORD FAUCONBERG.



LORD GREYSTOCK.

SHIELDS OF ARMS REMAINING IN THE WINDOWS OF

WOODHOUSE CHAPEL.

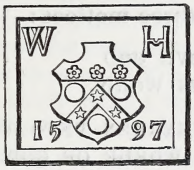
*In Memory of George Watkinson & Mary his Wife. Inscribed by Anne Christiana his sole surviving Daughter. A^no^* 1845.

This window was the work of Mr. Warrington of London.

The fact of the windows having been repaired, and the stained glass re-arranged, by Sir William Heyricke in the reign of James the First, was shown by the occurrence of small shields of the arms of Heyricke and May in the interstices of the upper tracery of the old East window.

There are still remaining various records of Sir William Heyricke's works in the Chapel at several dates:—

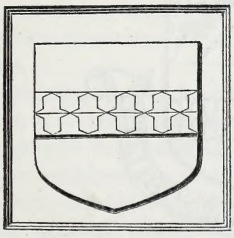
On the wainscot of an old Pew are his initials with the date 1597, and the arms of his mother Mary Bond (which were then generally used by the Heyricke family), viz. Argent, on a chevron sable between three hurts as many estoiles or, on a chief gules three cinquefoils of the field.

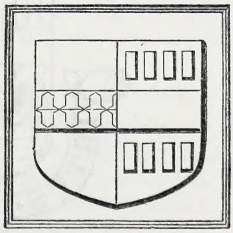


On three other panels of the same pew are these inscriptions:*

LOVE	VNTO THE	AND BE NOT
NOT	POORE BE	WEARYE OF
PRID	HELPINGE	WELDOINGE

On either side of the communion table are two shields of arms, carved in stone,





the first being those of Heyricke alone, and the other the same impaling May. The same are also painted on the gallery at the west end of the Chapel; whereon is a carved panel, containing

* As engraved in the Hist. of Leicestershire, vol. iii. pl. xviii.

these words: SIR WILLIAM HERICKE KNIGHT FOVNDER HEREOF 1613.

The Pulpit bears this inscription:

EX DONO	WILLMI	MILITIS	DOMINI
BENIGNI	HEYRICKE	ANNO	1615.

At its back:

I COR. IX. 16.
VE MIHI SI NON E-
VANGELIZAVERO.

And on the sounding-board:

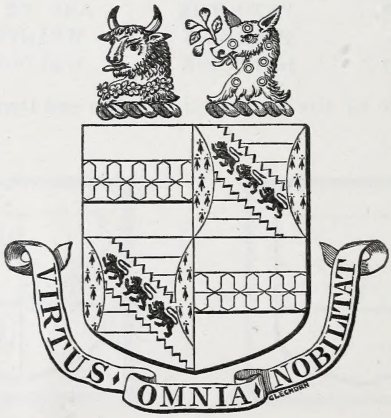
HARKEN VNTO THE
WORD OF THE LORD.

And on the front of the Reading Desk, which is of the same workmanship, are these three mottoes:

THEY THAT LOVE GOD
WILL HEARE HIS WORD.

SPEAKE
TRVTH.

HEARKEN VNTO THE
WORDE OF GOD.



HERRICK AND PERRY.

The Chairman called upon the Rev. Thomas James, M.A., Vicar of Theddingworth, to read a Paper upon

THE HISTORY OF LOUGHBOROUGH CHURCH,

Which that gentleman proceeded to do as follows:—

Having undertaken to read a paper on the history of your church, I must at once disown anything but a most superficial description. I have had no leisure or opportunity to consult any but the most obvious sources of information in the printed histories of the county, and profess to bring no new light from any hitherto undiscovered stores. Still, at the time of the publication of the county histories, architectural details had been so little studied, that the account of the church given in those authorities is very meagre and unsatisfactory. So far, then, as the existing fabric affords evidence of its own history, I will endeavour to set that history before you.

And fortunately both for you and me, its story is extremely plain and simple. It has none of the complications and difficulties which most churches of its size possess. You have but to remember two dates, and you have the whole before you.

The church is stated by Nichols to be dedicated to S. Peter and S. Paul; but his authorities are not conclusive, and therefore the traditionary dedication of All Saints may be safely followed. It consists of a western tower, nave with single aisle on the north, and double aisle on the south, north and south transepts and chancel. There is a porch parvise over it on the south side.

The nave consists of four bays, though the outer south aisle, owing to the projections of the porch and transept, consist of only two. The main body of the church, including all the piers and arches, is of the fourteenth century, say about 1330; and this is the first date I wish you to note. It is of the style called second-pointed, or more commonly "Decorated," but the application of this term to this church you see at first glance is singularly inappropriate.

A more undecorated church of its size you probably never saw; and those who define architecture (as is the fashion of the present day) to consist in ornament, must allow the church of Loughborough to have no architecture at all. But passing at once from the exterior (the outline of which, good as it is, has been completely altered since the time of which we are now speaking) no one can doubt the impressive effect of the severe and simple architecture of its interior, marred and clogged though it now be with its cumbrous and unsightly galleries.

Its bold and lofty piers; its still more lofty arches, and those, too, boldly moulded, and their excellent proportion,—are the features

which give the grand character to the whole, and render it one of the finest among the parish churches of the county. Its fault (and a fault it has) is not its simplicity, but its monotony. Throughout the church, every pier, every window, every moulding is the same. Nor is it relieved even by the introduction of sculpture, which so often gives variety in the details, where the main lines are identically repeated.

Even the hood mouldings of the windows are all terminated (with one exception which I shall mention) with the same invariable monotonous unmeaning notch-head; very useful as giving almost the certain date of the fourteenth century, but the most bald and inartistic of all architectural ornament. The windows of the nave consist throughout of the same character of—I can hardly say "tracery"—but of mullions crossing in the head—(another very safe sign of the fourteenth century work); and one cannot but regret that that beautiful variety of window tracery, which gave to this style the name of "Decorated," should be wholly wanted here.

It may possibly be, however, that at one time it existed to some amount; for I hold the present mullions in many cases to be comparatively modern. If you will examine for yourselves the east window of the north transept, you will see this considerably differs in details, though not in outline, from the other windows. In this the mullions are round moulded, not simply splayed or chamfered as the others are; and you will observe that the curves at the top of the windows run naturally into the rounded mouldings of the jambs; whereas in all the other windows the juncture of the curved chamfered lines with the round jambs is incomplete and inartistic, and such as we can hardly allow the architects of such noble work to have admitted.

Whatever may have been the case with the other windows, there is no doubt but that this east window of the north transept is in its original and perfect state, and if you look at the light and shade produced by the round moulded and filleted mullions of this window, as compared with the chamfered mullions of the others, you cannot fail at once to see its infinite superiority over them. It often, however, occurs in old churches that one window only was made much more ornamental than the rest; and this may have been the case here, as the corbel head on the one side and the uncarved block on the other, show an intention in this part of something superior to the repeated notch heads of the other windows.

There is no doubt but that the main walls of the present chancel are also of the same date as the nave of the church. At first sight the Perpendicular windows of the fifteenth century might lead to another view; but these are merely insertions, and the jambs of the original Decorated east window are still visible on the inside, with the panelling and tracery of the fifteenth century rudely and awkwardly infringing upon them. The door on the south commonly

called the priest's door, is also unmistakably of the same date as the main body of the church—as are also those traces of the sedilia, which have been imperfectly developed, but of which I hope sufficient will be discovered to enable them to be accurately restored. In a church like this, where the map is so plain, the accession of a fine bit of sculpture, such as this promises to be, would be a double relief and gain. I would remark that the head of the piscina to the east of this sculpture is at least a century later, and may rank its date with the great Perpendicular movement of the fifteenth century, which so greatly modified the external appearance of the church, and is that second great epoch in its history to which I will now advert.

Down to the year, say in round numbers 1450, the church must have remained very much as it was originally built, viz., with a high-pitched roof to the chancel (of which you may still see the marks on the east end of the nave wall, outside). There were also high-pitched roofs to the aisles and transepts, and certainly to the nave, where it rose in place of the present clerestory. In place of the present tower there stood another, of which we have no traces, and so can only guess at its character from the style of the early church.

It is a marvel to us (when we find the fifteenth century churches standing so firm and stout and needing nothing but a little occasional repair) how it was that the churches built but little more than a century before were deemed by fifteenth century people to need so much reconstruction. I have never seen the matter satisfactorily explained. One hundred or even two hundred years could not have so rotted the timbers and perished the stone as to have necessarily required those extensive alterations which we everywhere find. If it were that mere ornamental details were altered, we could understand it as being done as a matter of taste, just as the churchwardens of the last century thought round-headed brick windows really prettier than old fretted Gothic, and so put them in accordingly. But the fifteenth century people oftener left the ornamental details, and attacked the heavier constructed work, as indeed they did in your church. Here, except in the chancel, the windows were left, but the whole of the roof (which we can hardly consider by that time to have been decayed), they ruthlessly pulled down and put up their own in their stead.

Nothing but the love—I may say the very greed—of church building can account for it, and there is much certainly in this zeal of theirs which we cannot but admire, even while we regret that the work which they displaced was often better than the work which they substituted for it. The fifteenth century was the great age of Clerestories, and seldom had an architectural fashion so wide a run. They had existed indeed *before*, but in a much humbler form, and by no means as a marked feature. Now, however, they were made one of the leading characteristics of a building, giving

the character to the whole external church. It was hardly light that could be wanted in such a church as this; but perhaps it may be conceded that real additional beauty was gained by such a row of windows as you have here, in place of the heavy, unlighted, high pitched roof. Whatever was the motive, the fifteenth century folk set themselves to work on this church, and (as I have said) utterly altered its earlier character by the clerestory to the nave—by the low roof and parapets to the aisles and transepts—the inserted windows in the chancel—and the lower stage at least of the western tower, including the very fine west window, now shut out by the blockings and incumbrances of later times.

It is sad to see that a traditionary habit (which has, I understand very long and very high prescription in its favour) has made this fine window the sport and cockshy of every idle passer-by. But I must own that when you enter the western door under it, the state of things found there almost justifies the sacrilegious vagabonds. They may think that they have a fair right thus to sport with a window from without, which is so utterly uncared for within; but I will venture to say, that when once opened (as I trust it shortly may be) to the church of which it is so integral and ornamental a part, it will be as much respected by the schoolboys as its sister windows of the nave.

The upper part of the tower seems to have undergone several alterations at a date later than that which I should assign to the nave. Burton, writing in 1623, says: "The fair and large tower steeple of this church was built within the memory of man;" but if he means within the memory of men then living, this could not be. This remark may, however, refer to the rebuilding of the pinnacles and parapet, which were greatly damaged by a high wind in the year 1551, and built up to be again blown down in 1715. These were replaced by very indifferent imitations till the year 1774, when the present very well-proportioned pinnacles were erected. The arms in the west window and spandrils of the doorway would doubtless lead to the discovery of the builders of the tower. I have not had time enough to decipher them, nor have I heraldry enough to assign them if I had made them out. The advowson and manor, about the time of the erection of the tower, was passing through the hands of the Beaumonts, Hastings, the Lovells, and the De Veres; and the discovery of the coats of any of these families would probably fix truly the date of the building. The bearing of the "merchants of the staple" occurs in the left hand spandril of the west door; on the other the arms of Burton.

As years rolled on, no additional beauty accrued to the church either within or without. From the entries in the parish books of the year 1592 we find that the chancel in Elizabeth's reign must have existed for some years as many chancels did—in a most dilapidated and disgraceful state, as in that year we have the

following charges:—"Paid to Thomas German and his men for taking down the wall in the chancel (it had probably been blocked out, as the west end is now) and mending the walls therein, 7s. 6d." To others "for carrying rummel (rubbish or rubble) out of the old school in the chancel, 6s. 3d.;" "for six men labourers and four women labourers for another day's work, 6s. 4d.;" and the glazing of the windows is also mentioned. The chancel was then, no doubt, restored from a school to its proper uses; and so, with the addition of new bells and chimes, things went on in ordinary fashion. Accounts occur in 1604 and 1627 for painting the church; and in 1636 the steeple was repaired, at the charge of £42. More tasteful times occurred: we read in 1639—"Paid Thomas Sewell for painting the stone the eagle stands on, and for laying the Pulpit Green and reading-desk, and gilding the knobs, £1. 14s."

The next year—"Paid for lavender to lay in the chest to sweeten the surplice." No sum mentioned.

But, alas! such good times soon passed away: in 1646, John Wright, the clerk, served the office of churchwarden, and we have this sad entry. "This year the Brass Eagle in the church was sold," and sold, too, as old brass—which, at 6d. a pound, came to £5. 2s. 10d.

In 1648, "For dressing the church, after the Scots, 4s. 6d."

Worse times for the church adornments were yet to come. Oliver Cromwell was now in power, and in 1650 we have—"Paid Robert Foster for washing out the King's arms, 4s." A very dear job.

In 1658, "Spent on the ringers and other neighbours, when the Lord Protector was proclaimed 10s." This was for Richard Cromwell: but the bells had soon to ring another tune—when Charles II. was restored, and with him came back Mr. Nicholas Hall, the minister of this town, who was ejected at the time of the Usurpation.

But Hall did not enjoy his restoration long, for the next entry is his burial, and the next—"Paid for a quart of burnt claret, when Mr. Bright (his successor) took possession, 1s. 8d."—a most reasonable charge; and "Gave the ringers to drink, 6d." Who drank the burnt claret, unless it were the churchwarden, or the churchwarden and parson together, the book forbears to say.

But alas for the vicissitudes of human affairs! Mr. Bright became "Dr." Bright, and Dean of St. Asaph, yet is the next entry of the said Doctor, "buried."

We now come to the House of Hanover. Utilitarianism was in the ascendant, and we read of £26. 10s. paid in 1717, for a new clock and chimes.

Then came, in 1747, the great event of new pewing. All the old woodwork of the benches, stalls, &c., was swept away after the fashion of the Brass Eagle, and the church was brought very much

to the condition in which you now see it. There seems to have been great zeal and unanimity in the matter; and however much we may now regret the carved open seats which were then probably swept away, I wish we had them back again; yet the people of the day acted up to the lights they had (though they certainly were but rushlights), and in this you may at least follow them, that they manfully set to work to raise the money which they deemed necessary to put the church into what they considered decency and order.

Nor did they stop here—for while they on the one hand cut down the minister and churchwardens to 5s. for their horse hire and other expenses to Leicester at the visitation, they set up (regardless of the green paint and gilding lately bestowed upon them) a new pulpit and sounding-board, and staircase (doubtless those now existing) at the cost of £31. 10s: recast their bells, and in the year 1792, erected the organ, which was built by Green, of London, at the price of £450. This they inaugurated with a great concert of Handel's music, and aided their new instrument with a full accompaniment of drums, trumpets, and horns, and finished up with a concert and ball at the George Assembly Rooms in the evening—not perhaps the most legitimate way of getting money for such a purpose ; but, in my opinion, quite as allowable a source of raising church money as by any modern fashionable bazaars.

But the most wonderful thing was that it was carried out with such spirit and success, that after they had paid all their expenses they had £200. to spare, an unprecedented surplus, surely, in a charitable collection; but which I hope may become a precedent for any future church subscriptions in the good town of Loughborough.

I have dwelt rather on these details, which perhaps, to some, may appear too trivial—not only, because, as I told you, the important annals of the church are very soon exhausted, but because few places have the advantage of a book containing so many curious particulars relating to the common life history of their parish, as you possess in the volume from which I have extracted these minutes, and because I fully believe that these seemingly unimportant details more truly open the life and manners to us of past times, than more ponderous and abstract disquisitions.

We antiquaries (if I may be allowed to swim by the side of such learned gentlemen as Mr. Nichols, Mr. Bloxam, Mr. Gresley, Mr. Thompson, and others whom I see here) are often accused of wasting our time upon trifles, and peddling with particulars, when the true student of history is propounding his principles. But of what use is any theory, and what truth can it contain, if it be not founded on particular facts? We may be but hewers of wood and drawers of water, but still the stately pile of history could not rise without us.

Now I think the few extracts I have read to you may show us this—how unsafe it is to make sweeping generalizations, without attention to such little facts. I suppose if there is one general proposition more universally acknowledged than another, it is the sweeping condemnation of the last century as to its utter apathy and deadness in all matters concerning the church. It is one of those few regular historical data in which all parties agree. Yet the extracts which I have just been giving you will hardly bear out so sweeping a generalization. On the contrary, we find a succession of changes, year after year, all bearing reference to the improvement of the church, and shewing the interest felt in it by the people. It was not zeal, or liberality, that was wanting, but knowledge. If we say that they had never understood or studied Gothic Architecture and had forgotten the spirit of congregational worship—that the middle classes, in taking care of themselves, had thrust out the poor—that they thought more of preaching than of prayer—more of their bodily comfort in church than their soul's devotion, I fear we should be saying quite true. But we of this generation have not so utterly outgrown all these things (much as we have improved concerning them) as to allow us, in charity and truth, to be quite so hard on the past generation as we are apt to be.

We certainly, in these days, have greater knowledge of church architecture, have a more intelligent appreciation of the spirit of common worship, and of the arrangement of the church as a house of prayer, and we admit that its poor have at least as great a claim as the richest among us, to their place in God's house. Only, let us not pride ourselves, on our knowledge, or vaunt ourselves above our fathers, but rather try to act up to our knowledge, with the same zeal and simplicity as they did to theirs.

But I fear you will consider me straying from my subject into unwarrantable sermonizing. That I have no more wish than right to do. I was led into it, by my justification of antiquarian details as often rectifying the indiscriminating theories of the general historian. I may be excused, therefore, if I call your attention to a few more minute objects of interest in the church before I conclude.

The ground plan has some peculiarities, and these highly advantageous for a large town church. The second south aisle, for instance, is an uncommon feature, except in churches of considerable pretensions; but it gives space where it is most wanted. More convenient still is the position of the north and south entrances. These you will find in ninety-nine churches out of a hundred to be in the westernmost bay *but one*, with a passage running across, dividing the nave seats from north to south into two unequal blocks. *Here*, the entrances are in the westernmost bay of all, and considerable space and convenience is thereby acquired. The space of the chancel arch being unusually wide, and the chancel the same width as the nave, without any return of intervening wall, renders the

chancel more available than usual for its proper use, as the *place of the Choir;* while the north transept offers itself, as if on purpose, for your fine organ. But I will not refer to future arrangements, because you may feel yourselves safe in the hands of Mr. Scott, whose great knowledge and experience both in ancient and modern churches, have deservedly raised him to the highest authority on such matters.

Of the monuments in the church, one cannot but regret that the most ancient and interesting of them, the sepulchral brasses, should have been so mutilated and effaced from the positions to which they have been moved. It would have been better had they been preserved under the pews, than placed so as to be worn by every passer-by. As Mr. Gresley purposes to take up this special subject, I will not further speak of them than to express a hope that in the repavement of the church, every brass, however worn, and every stone indicating the former existence of a brass, may be so preserved and placed as to prevent any further deterioration. May I beg also that the churchwardens, and those who take interest in the work, will be very careful to preserve any encaustic tiles, or even fragments of them, which are almost sure to be turned up when the present floor is disturbed?

There are few special objects of interest here, for so large a church. The opening of the old sedilia, as I before remarked, holds out the greatest promise. There is also a trefoiled arch in the eastern wall of the south transept, which should be cleared out, the meaning of which it is difficult at present to determine. I do not think it a door (as has been suggested), for there are no marks of one on the outside, and a door in the east end is very rare indeed. It will probably be found to be a niche for an aumbry, or piscina, or for some purpose in connection with the side altar, which the cill of the adjoining window shows once to have existed there.

The two sacraments are rather strangely represented by the existing unecclesiastical font and altar table. For the first I cannot say much. It has not even the recommendation, which I own with me often goes further than mere architectural style—that it was done as handsomely and well as could be for its time. But this *is* the case with the communion table—and though somewhat anomalous, and perhaps challengeable by the letter of the canons, is yet of so handsome and unusual a character, that I hope in any restoration it may be carefully retained.

One object of antiquarian interest I must mention, though I could better point it out to you on the spot than describe it now. It is one of those so-called low side windows which remain the puzzle and the crux of archæologians to the present hour. If you look at the westernmost windows of the south side of the chancel, you will see that beneath the cill of the existing window there has been a

square aperture, now blocked up, but which we know from hundreds of other existing examples, must once have been opened and unglazed—and closed only with a wooden shutter.

You would probably have hardly noticed this breach in the stone work—but if you will henceforth, on your visit to churches, look out for it, you will find traces of a similar window, generally in the same place as this, in nine out of ten churches. What the use of this aperture was, no one has as yet, with any certainty made out. It has received different names—some very absurd—from its supposed meaning, but in order not to commit oneself to any theory, it is better at present simply to call them, from their position, low side windows.

On the north side of the chancel, eastward to its ordinary place you may still see the remains of the old vestry—in some projecting stones which bore the roof,—and on the south side are the remains of an original doorway, now blocked up, and it may be a puzzling question how it got there. It is certainly as old, if not older than the earliest part of the present church: there is nothing, however, in its form necessary to carry it back earlier than the fourteenth century.

Either, then, it is the only relic of a church somewhat, but *only a little*, earlier than the existing one, and was the priest's door of a former and smaller chancel, or (which I think is quite as likely, and to which I am myself more inclined)—it may be that the builders of the present fabric began (as they generally did at the chancel) in a smaller scale and poorer character, and then before they had proceeded far, changed their views and their plan, and without thinking it worth while to pull down this doorway, carried out the main work on the grand scale in which we now find it.

On the *past* architectural history of your church, I have nothing more to say. I wish that I could have made my description more interesting to you; but it is always difficult (even if one had the requisite knowledge and power) to adapt, (without too great generalities on one side, or too much technicality on the other), a discourse on church architecture to an audience, some of whom are fitter to be one's teachers, and some of whom come to learn.

The *future* history of the church is one on which all can meet on more equal grounds, and in which, in the present hopeful prospect of a thorough restoration, there must be a more common and and a deeper interest.

You have placed yourselves in such good hands that it would seem presumptuous in me to offer any warning or advice. Such destructions however, have taken place and are daily taking place, under the name of restoration, that I must exhort you to carry out *your* restoration in the most conservative spirit. Do not destroy for the sake of uniformity—for making all things smooth and fair—a single old time-mark in the walls of your church. Many such will doubt-

less turn up when the inside plaster is removed, and will give notes and helps to some future chronicler of your church, more careful and faithful than myself. And do not over restore what is not constructionally required. Let time show *his* thumb mark among the many beautifiers and improvers which the church has had. When safety and real convenience is at stake, you will not, of course, allow any love of antiquity to stand in the way of a real want: but where this is not the case, you will do well not to attempt to restore mere beauty of form and detail.

But each separate object requires a special judgment on it, and there is no judgment that can be more trusted in such matters than that of the architect whom you have chosen.

I will not dwell on the disfigurements which now internally obscure the beauties of your church—though they used to form fruitful ground for jest and for abuse on such occasions as these. I will rather congratulate you that they are so soon to disappear.

Will you permit me, in conclusion, as one who has had considerable experience in the restoration of the churches of a neighbouring county, and lately in that of his own, to assure you how certainly the correct and orderly re-arrangement and restoration of a church leads to higher benefits than those of mere outward beauty and order. I do not now speak of those mere obvious advantages of arrangements which externally bring all men equal, as they ought to be, in the sight of God, but I mean that the sacrifices of small privileges and old prejudices—and, it may be, of cherished associations which every parishioner is called upon, in such a work, to make—will be, in every well ordered mind, a source of satisfaction rather than of a discontent, of pleasure than of bitterness, if he looks with single eye to the great aim, with which such works should always be carried on—the glory of God and the good of our brethren.

Sacrifices in *money* you will be called upon to make, and no doubt these will be cheerfully given. The money (if the work is *started* well, and the start is everything) is often the easiest part of Church Restoration—but the sacrifice of *self* which, more or less, every party must make in such a work, is often a far harder matter, though you do not require me to tell you that it is a much greater one—and much more demanded of us. Yet it is this sacrifice, made more by one, less by another, which will be found the firmest bond of future union, and the basis of a restoration more deep and sacred than that of wood or stones. It is not an offering that will cost you nothing—for our feeling and prejudices, and interests, and selfishness, cling to us far more closely than the purse we carry about us; but it is these things which as disciples of our master we are especially called upon to give up—and we may well believe that no sacrifice we can offer, to the honour of His sanctuary, will be half as acceptable in His sight as that of our self-interest and our self-will.

Votes of thanks to the Readers of Papers and to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

THE EXCURSION.

On the following morning a party of members and their friends left Loughborough for an excursion through various places in the neighbourhood. The first place inspected was the Church at

DISHLEY,

which was found in a wretchedly neglected condition. Shutters to the windows excluded the light. Dilapidation, desolation, dirt, and gloom met the eye on every side. At the east end, rest the remains of the once famous sheep breeder, Mr. Bakewell, the stone over which was with difficulty discovered. Mr. Bloxam pointed out the architectural features, among which were the single pointed lights of the thirteenth century—a "low side window," a piscina and sedilia. He then cited a passage from one of the Homilies, referring to the sin of leaving a church to "foul decay," and expressed a hope that something would be done to preserve the church, in which rested the remains of so noted a man as Mr. Bakewell, from destruction.

HATHERN.

Mr. Bloxam remarked that this was a good plain church of the fourteenth century, which had replaced one standing when the present font (an interesting one rudely sculptured) was first used. The number of alabaster slabs illustrated the observations made on the previous evening by Mr. Gresley respecting the abundance of that material in this district. The Register beginning with the reign of Elizabeth, and well kept, was exhibited.

KEGWORTH.

Mr. Bloxam here pointed out on the north side of the church a *domus inclusus* (now used as a vestry) formerly occupied by an anchorite. In the chancel a row of figures, in wood, of performers on various musical instruments was exhibited. They were apparently fifteenth century work, and were taken down from the nave roof. A number of encaustic tiles found during the restoration of the church were also shewn. The original door on the north side of the church was much admired.

RATCLIFFE-ON-SOAR.

This church was undergoing restoration. The principal objects of attraction here were the sumptuous effigies of the Sacheverells. The earliest (as Mr. Bloxam explained) is on the north side and represents a knight in the military costume of Edward the Fourth or Henry the Seventh's reign, though the date on the monument is 1539—an example of the representation of earlier armour than the date implies. In an effigy of the reign of Phillip and Mary a

peculiar arrangement of the lady's petticoat was pointed out as an idea of the artist, not a fashion of the period.

KINGSTON-ON-SOAR.

Here the party was met by Lord Belper, and conducted by him into the church, which is a structure of the reign of Henry the Eighth, and therefore possessing no merit as a Gothic ecclesiastical edifice. The rebus of the Babington family abounds within the building—the babe and tun. After inspecting the church his lordship invited the members to visit a field where some extensive antiquarian discoveries had recently been made. The result of these discoveries were afterwards exhibited to the party at the residence of Lord Belper, and were found to consist of various cinerary urns of the Anglo-Saxon period in good preservation. Fruit, wine, and confectionary were provided for the visitors, and the paintings and sculpture within the house, as well as the conservatories and the shrubs in the gardens obtained a large share of admiration. The visitors left Kingston-on-Soar much gratified with the affable and hospitable reception accorded to them by Lord Belper.

SUTTON BONNINGTON AND SUTTON ST. ANN'S

were next visited. The church at the latter place contains an effigy of a knight temp. Edward IV., as the collar of the rose and sun round his neck indicates. Mr. Bloxam fully explained all the details of the armour.

NORMANTON AND STANFORD.

The church at Stanford consists of nave, aisles and chancel, and is well proportioned. The chief object of interest was a remarkable recumbent effigy in the north aisle, which Mr. Bloxam said, is that of a civilian and probably the founder of the church, as it is of the same period as that in which the principal portion of the church was erected. This figure is represented bareheaded, his hands raised on his breast, with a heart placed in them. He appears with the moustache and the beard customarily worn in the fourteenth century. He is habited in the *tunica botonata* or close fitting coat, (with close fitting sleeves) buttoned down in front. Over this appears the hanging sleeve of the *super tunica.* He has his sword, and in front, on the right side, his analace, knife, or dagger, over which is his gypcere or purse. The lower part of the effigy is mutilated. It is one of those curious sculptured figures of the fourteenth century of the civilian order, which has hitherto escaped notice as a class: no two of them are alike.

"Hobgoblin Hall," an old manor house said to be haunted, containing some fourteenth century woodwork, and a mantel piece of the seventeenth century was visited on the way to COTES, where an ancient barn, and the remains of a large edifice were inspected, after which the party returned to Loughborough.

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Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society.

August 29*th*, 1859.

THE REV. ROBERT BURNABY in the chair.

MR. T. NEVINSON exhibited a silver penny of one of the Henrys, an Ashby-de-la-Zouch token, date 1667, having the George and Dragon on the obverse (the name of the issuer could not satisfactorily be made out, it was probably Houlden); a Roman coin, the legend of which could not be deciphered; a farthing of George I., dated 1723, and a bronze ornament, in shape like a shell, pierced with an irregular and apparently unmeaning pattern, with a loop for suspension: all which antiquities were found during the demolition of S. John's and Bent's hospital in Leicester.

The REV. J. H. HILL read the following paper on the Stained Glass Window lately placed in Lincoln Cathedral to the memory of S. Remigius the Founder.

IN the month of November last a very beautiful stained glass window was erected in Lincoln Cathedral by Mr. D'Eyncourt, of Bayons Manor, to the memory of Remigius, the first bishop and founder of that noble pile. It is placed in the Rose window at the west end, where the solid work of the ancient cathedral of Remigius still remains. The antiquarian correctness of the design, as well as the richness and harmony of colour, produces a very gratifying effect, and is in perfect keeping with the magnificent building which it adorns. The centre of the window is occupied by a figure of the good bishop in his ecclesiastical garments, and round it is placed the following appropriate inscription:—"*In Memoriam Remigii Fundatoris, SS., Carolus de Eyncourt de Bayons*, A.D. 1858." The consanguinity of Remigius and Walter D'Eyncourt, their connection with the Conqueror, and the fact that Remigius built the cathedral, are

curiously corroborated by a leaden plate which was found at the west end of the cathedral in 1760, bearing upon it the following inscription:—"Here lyeth William, son of Walter de Eyncourt, cousin of Remigius, Bishop of Lincoln, who built this church. The aforesaid William was of royal descent, and while receiving his education in the court of King William, son of the great King William who conquered England, died on the 3rd Kalends of November." To the memory of Remigius Mr. D'Eyncourt (as the descendant of Baron Walter) has erected this conspicuous window, and the munificent donor deserves the best thanks of all lovers of stained glass windows for having placed in such a position with great taste and judgment so noble a specimen of the art—a specimen worthy of the distinguished founder, and one that will ever remind those who frequent this beautiful house of prayer of their obligation to Remigius, as well as to the munificent benefactor. Remigius de Fescamp, and his relative, Walter de Eyncourt, accompanied William the Conqueror to England, and were present with him in his wars. William of Winchester says that Remigius was formerly a monk of Fescamp, and received the bishopric of Dorchester for a vessel and twenty armed men, whom he had brought in 1066 to the rendezvous of the Norman troops. Remigius and other prelates coming from beyond seas, everywhere expelled the monks, who, according to a custom peculiar to England, lived upon the domains of the episcopal churches, and King William thanked them for this, holding, that English monks could only bear him ill will. When, however, the Normans got possession of the bishoprics, they disdained to inhabit the ancient capitals of their dioceses, which were for the most part petty towns, and transferred their residences to places better adapted for the luxurious enjoyment of life; and we find that at a council holden in London in the year 1078, under Lanfranc, it was decreed that several bishoprics should be removed out of villages to considerable towns, and accordingly Sherburn was removed to Salisbury, Lichfield to Chester, Selsey to Chichester, Wells to Bath, Kirton to Exeter, Elmham to Thetford, and from thence to Norwich, and Sidnaceaster to Lincoln. The see was removed to Lincoln in 1088, or as stated in the Lincoln MS., 1086, and here it was that Remigius de Fescamp bought some fields on the top of the hill, near the castle of Lincoln, the lofty towers of which commanded the city, and on that elevated spot he built a cathedral church, which for strength and beauty was both fitting for the service of God, and, as the times required, impregnable to hostile attack. Geraldus Cambrensis tells us that Remigius founded and rapidly completed his cathedral church on the brow of the hill beyond the river Witham in honour of the Blessed Virgin. Matthew of Westminster gives the reason why good Bishop Remigius removed his see from Dorchester to Lincoln.

He states that the Bishop thought it not fitting that the cathedral city should be in a small town at one end of the diocese, when Lincoln was much superior both in situation and in its buildings; thereupon, having bought some land he caused a church to be built on the highest part of the city, near the castle, and canons to be ordained to the territory. The difficulties, however, attending the foundation of Lincoln Cathedral, which was strongly opposed by the Archbishop of York, who claimed all Lindsey and Lincoln as part of his province, the great cost of land to be purchased for the site of the church, with houses around it for the deacons and canons, so far delayed the proceedings of Remigius, the good bishop, that at his death, in 1092, the cathedral church was unfinished, although so far completed as to be thought fit for consecration, which ceremony was accordingly performed with great solemnity after his death by Bloet *quâ* Bishop of Lincoln. Henry of Huntingdon, a native of Lincoln and one of the dignitaries of the Church, says that Remigius changed the see of Dorchester to Lincoln, "he founded *our Church there*, endowed it with ample possessions, and attached to it men of worth. I speak of what I have seen and heard. Him (Remigius) I never saw, but I knew all the venerable men to whom he gave appointments in his new church."—*(Letter to Walter.)* The historian describes Remigius as *staturâ parvus sed corde magnus: colore fuscus, sed operibus venustus:* "Of stature small, but great in heart: dark in hue, but fair in deeds." He was a man full of energy and intelligence, and was appointed with others by the King to make a progress through the counties of England, establishing a court of enquiry in each place of any importance.

W. W. Tailby, Esq., was unanimously elected a member of the Society.

October 31*st*, 1859.

The Rev. Robert Burnaby in the chair.

Two prints were exhibited showing the alterations proposed to be effected in the choir of the Cathedral at Lichfield. A Report detailing the work already done and what is proposed to be effected in the future was also laid before the Meeting.

Mr. Goddard exhibited a photograph of a sculptured memorial by Phyffees to the deceased students of S. Augustine's College, Canterbury, which is shortly to be placed in the crypt underneath the chapel. It represents the preaching of S. Augustine on his

landing in England, A.D. 596. Also a box with a beautiful enamel of King George the Third, when a young man.

MR. WING exhibited a photograph of the three remaining steps of a churchyard cross at Stockton, Salop, to the lowest of which, on the north side, a projecting stone is attached. It was conjectured that this might have served as a footing for a preacher, or as a place for penitents or others to leave alms or money upon. Another photograph of Astley Abbots Church, showed a modern design whereby three bells of good size are hung in a diminutive and rural steeple. The two largest ones are placed in cells in the oblong part, and the smallest in the square part above. Mr. Wing exhibited also a photograph of a very fine half timbered house near Astley Abbots, and a tracing of a Shropshire encaustic tile with the monograms Thc and Xpc crowned.

MR. NEALE read the following paper:—

THE medallions exhibited this morning are of the celebrated old Wedgwood pottery, blue and white. On their obverse sides are the likenesses probably of Voltaire and Franklin, and on the reverse the stamped name of Wedgwood. This last fact is interesting to notice as he was the first modern potter who marked his goods with his name, borrowing the idea from the ancient Romans. It would be out of place here to enter into a description of the manufacture itself to any lengthened extent, as the subject is familiar to all; but the name of Josiah Wedgwood is too interesting, and his works too important to be passed by unnoticed. He was born in Staffordshire in 1730, and died at his mansion, Etruria Hall, in 1795. Until his time the French stood unrivalled in the manufacture of pottery, and first in all the branches of ceramic art. With a considerable knowledge of chemistry, he made great improvements in the various wares. His celebrated production was the Queen's ware, called so because Queen Charlotte admired its beauty and honoured it with her favour. The far-famed Etruscan vases collected at Naples by Sir William Hamilton was successfully imitated by him. The encaustic colours were his own invention, and the lost art was once more resuscitated. The town of Etruria, and the name of his seat, we may suppose, took their origin from this circumstance. We must not omit to name that Wedgwood produced the beautiful imitation of the Barberini or Portland vase, broken some years since purposely in the British Museum. Many copies of this were sold for fifty guineas each. In conclusion, we merely add, that his works are now much sought after and fetch very high prices at public sales on account of their beauty and rarity.

The REV. J. H. HILL exhibited some Roman relics which he had picked up at the recently discovered villa at Apethorpe, consisting

of fragments of pottery, tessaræ, a small iron pick, bones, &c. Also the autograph diary from 1707 to 1711 of Humphrey Michell, rector of Blaston St. Giles, Leicestershire, containing many curious particulars respecting trials for witchcraft, and other parochial affairs, which Mr. Hill hoped to read at the next Meeting of the Society.

Mr. James Thompson exhibited a small oblong volume entitled "England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, described and abridged, with the Historie and Relation of things worthy memory from a farr Larger Volumne, done by John Speed. Anno cum privilegio 1627. And are to be sold by George Humble, at White Horse, in Popes-head Alley." We find mention made in it of the stone coffin said to be King Richard the Third's, and of Cardinal Wolsey having been buried in a similar one. Cavendish, however, states that Wolsey was buried in a wooden coffin, and the coffin supposed to be King Richard's is probably of the thirteenth century.

Mr. Nevinson exhibited an apothecary's mortar in bell metal, about four inches in height, highly ornamented, and inscribed LOF. GODT. VAN. AL. AO. 1642. Also a small silver medal, having on the obverse side the head of King Charles the First in high relief, and an inscription, and on the reverse the royal arms with the garter.

The Rev. W. B. Moore exhibited a small early edition of the Book of Common Prayer, 1662, with engravings.

Mr. G. C. Bellairs exhibited a farthing of Charles I., and a silver stirling, in bad preservation, of the time of Edward I. or II., found in Cosby churchyard.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley exhibited a photograph, by Rev. T. C. Peake, of an elegant silver chalice, still in use at the church of Blaston S. Giles. The base, which is flat, is sexagon, with a foliated ornament projecting from each angle. The stem is square, with an enriched knob near the top of it. The cup is shallow and wide. The oldest representations of chalices upon monumental brasses of ecclesiastics are hemispherical, afterwards they were made wider, like the present example, and subsequently, in the sixteenth century, assumed an elongated form. Also a photograph of a very beautiful ivory tablet, of the thirteenth century, in the private chapel at Neville Holt. It is divided into four compartments by slender shafts, supporting trefoiled canopies or arcades, with pediments above, enriched with crockets. The first compartment has our Lord tied to a pillar and scourged; in the second He is carrying His cross, amid the taunts of the rabble, and followed by the holy women; in the third is the Annunciation; in the fourth, the Nativity.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley also produced a stone instrument from Llandudno, near the Great Ormes Head, Conway. In October, 1849, the miners there accidentally struck into an old copper mine,

which it is conjectured, from the absence of metal tools, was worked previously to the Roman invasion. It contained chisels formed from bones, and stone hammers or pounders, varying in weight from one pound to fifty. The specimen now exhibited weighs 10lbs. 9oz. It is of a hard bluish stone, nine inches long, and is ornamented near the top and round the centre by rings of various widths encircling it. In the catalogue of the museum of Thomas Bateman, Esq., at Youlgrave, p. 26, a description is given of other articles from this old mine, of the discovery of which an account was published in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for December, 1849.

Mr. Thompson read the following paper upon the remains of

THE CASTLE OF KIRBY MUXLOE.

Leaving the town of Leicester by the Hinckley road, a pedestrian will walk about two miles before he will reach the gateway conducting through the demesne of J. B. Winstanley, Esq., to Braunstone Hall. A few hundred yards further he will notice, on the *right* hand, a stile and gate. This is the commencement of the foot road to Kirby Muxloe. Passing over the field, the pedestrian will find the path continues over the Leicester and Burton Railway, and beyond there, over five fields to Braunstone Frith—a substantial farmhouse built of brick. Here the footpath deviates a little to the left, to clear the house and buildings, and then it runs on again behind the house, either along a lane, or over a field by the side of the lane.

So far, and for two fields further, there is nothing in the way to attract the notice of the lover of pleasing scenery. The view is circumscribed by hedges and low meadows. But in the third field beyond the lane last mentioned, Kirby Frith comes in sight, and glimpses of the house, hidden among trees, are obtained. A few paces further, and on the right hand, in the distance, the Leicestershire hills are seen between the boughs and trunks of the trees; Old John, the hunch of Bardon, Markfield, and the Cliff show themselves; Markfield especially rising sheer up above the level horizon somewhat higher than any of its neighbours.

Hereabouts, the footpath turns abruptly to the right, and when another field or two have been crossed, the pedestrian sees the red-tiled roof of Kirby school-house, recently erected—a conspicuous object from its colour and its position. A few minutes' more walking brings you to the village.

The Castle is here the object which the pedestrian will of course make the exclusive aim of his visit. Applying at the house near the ruins he will be obligingly furnished with the key, which will give admission to the courtyard within the moated area.

As the gateway is approached, it does not impress the visitor either with its height or its architectural detail. The wall is of red brick, with dark bricks introduced in the diamond pattern, and the various openings have stone dressings. There are no windows except on the second floor. The doorway itself has many parts worthy of notice. It was guarded by a drawbridge, that was raised up in front, and fitted in the square recess above the arch; near whose upper angles the apertures still remain, through which the chains passed whereby the bridge was raised and lowered. It had a portcullis, the grooves yet remaining. Above the arch is a square stone border, wherein the arms of Lord Hastings, carved on a shield of the same material, were once placed. On either hand two loopholes, with slits above them, indicate that an unknown visitor, in former times, when he wound his horn before the Castle gate, would see the heads of bolts and arrows pointed at him with deadly purpose, did he venture near before he was bidden welcome and the bridge lowered. The ancient door itself, braced together with many transverse planks, still remains, hanging in its original staples, three to each fold. Its wicket also remains.

The entrance is flanked by semioctagonal towers. They have windows on the first floor cautiously placed on their unexposed sides; on the second floor, in the centre side of the tower, overlooking the approach.

Within the portal is an open space or lobby, at whose end was another folding door, each wing of which hung on three strong iron staples, still in their places. On the right hand a small door opens into what was once the Porter's Lodge. This was lighted from the lobby by a window, barred across, and by another looking upon the courtyard. In the corner of the lodge, near the door, is one of the embrasures which defended the drawbridge. The porter had a fireplace, situate opposite the window first named. A door, also opposite the one by which he entered, and on the right hand of the fireplace, leads into the lower room of one of the flanking towers. This is dark and lofty, lighted by one narrow window, and containing near the ground an embrasure defending the bridge. This was probably a day and night room for men-at-arms. A short flight of steps connects this place with the closet; there was one to each story. On the left hand side of the main entrance, in the lobby, the arrangement was nearly the same as that described as existing on the right hand; the large room corresponding with the Porter's Lodge being, perhaps, the dining room for the lower servants and men-at-arms, and the tower serving the same use as its companion on the other side. The entrance passage and the two rooms on each side are covered in with arched roofs of brickwork.

Emerging into the courtyard, the visitor finds there are two turrets at the back of the gateway towers. They contain circular

staircases, on mounting which he is brought to the room extending over the Porter's Lodge, the passage, and the servants' dining room. This was a large apartment, and may have been the dining hall for the head of the household and its upper officers. On the north are the two windows seen outside as the pedestrian approaches the front of the building: on the south side are traces of four windows, each containing three lights. On close inspection these windows seem to have had iron crossbars and wooden shutters inside: whether they were glazed or not is uncertain. At each end of the room was a fireplace, and a door conducting to a chamber in each flanking tower, above that before noticed as a day and night room for men-at-arms. Attached to these tower-chambers was a closet, similar to that in the story immediately beneath, and a door now opens hence upon the void below.

It is evident that on each side of the flanking towers other rooms and offices existed, of which only the flooring and foundations remain. An empty space, from the top to the bottom of the building, comes between the entrance gateway, with its turrets, and these offices; and these spaces seem to have been intended for concealment, as on the western side a low doorway is yet in existence, which opens into one of these remarkable vacancies. They were well and cunningly contrived; for no one but a person acquainted with the Castle would be able to discover their existence, for they are surrounded by the walls of rooms, and only one window opens into them, and that in a place which would not lead to suspicion. In times like those of the fifteenth century, when the nobles were ranged in deadly strife under rival banners—when feuds were cherished which had been handed down for generations,—hidden recesses were not useless in the baron's castle, and the proscribed partizan might lie securely in such harbours.

Thus far I have alluded only to the central mass of building; but the tower, standing apparently by itself to the westward, will well repay the most minute and painstaking examination. This structure contains three stages or stories, surmounted by a flat roof, with embattled parapet. It is now so completely mantled in ivy that its external architectural details are in most cases completely hidden; but its two lateral turrets stand out to the view notwithstanding. One of these, on the eastern face of the tower, contains the staircase, on ascending which the former occupants of the Castle were landed at the doors of the apartments in each story, and on the roof itself. It afforded access to each in succession; while the stories were thus isolated from each other.

The approach to the ground floor is from the courtyard, by a doorway at the south-eastern corner of the tower. The precaution manifested in constructive detail is here observable in the placing of the windows; for one is inserted on the north side, near the

north-western angle, another on the eastern side looking along the front of the Castle, and a third on the south side, near the south-western angle; all in such positions as that any missiles discharged by an enemy, and entering the apartment, would do so at the least possible risk to the inmates. Below each window, also, is an embrasure in which a crossbowman or arquebusier could lie and take aim at an assailant. In the western wall—the most exposed face of the ground floor—there is no window. The chimney and fireplace are on the northern side. On the south side is a doorway leading into a small room, with closet attached. This arrangement exists in connection with each story, and on the outside it appears like a turret on the southern face of the tower.

In order to gain the first floor the staircase was ascended, and the room was entered on the eastern side. This was evidently an apartment intended for comfortable if not luxurious habitation. Its north side is blank—no chill and cheerless light from that quarter was invited—but a narrow eastern window admitted the rays of the early morning sun, a fully sized opening freely welcomed its midday beams, and a window, with stone seats on each of its splayed sides, near the wide fireplace, permitted the meditative occupant to watch the setting sun as it sank over the meadows and below the level horizon of a tranquil landscape.

In the second floor a similar regard to domestic ease and enjoyment is manifest. The fireplace here as on the ground floor is on the north side, and near it, on the right hand, is a two-light window with stone seats at the sides—an aspect less agreeable than might have been supposed would have been chosen; and the only reason that can be imagined for it being that it enabled the tenants of the chamber to look out upon the visitors, hostile or otherwise, grouped in front of the Castle, at a comparatively safe height from the ground. A slit on the eastern side gave access to the morning light, and in the south side is a window like that lighting the story below. The western side is blank. This would seem to have been a summer apartment, admitting the sun's heat until it reached the meridian, and then excluding it as far as possible for the remainder of the day.

On the roof was ample space for armed men, sheltered from the arrows and bolts and shot of an enemy by high battlements. The turret on the south side was open here, as in the first and second stories, to its occupants.

The staircase is still nearly complete up to the second story, though not to the roof, and the eye from this spot takes in all the interior from the base to the summit, the roof and floorings being gone entirely, leaving only the shell of the tower. The space within is about eighteen feet square.

A corresponding tower formerly stood on the eastern side of the gateway, of which considerable remains were in existence

ninety years ago; being then seen by Throsby, the local historian, who, in his Memoirs of the Town and County of Leicester (vol. iii. 1777), gives a rude engraving of them, and thus briefly speaks of the building: "There stood a lofty tower at each end of the ruins, which must have given the whole rather the appearance of grandeur. One of them is pretty perfect, but the other is making hasty strides towards complete annihilation. I went into several rooms upon the ground floor and the upper apartments, which appear to have been never finished."

Leaving the front of the ruin and proceeding to the sides and back, it will be seen, on minute examination, that the enclosing wall exhibits some peculiarities of structure. Unlike the castle walls of the Edwardian period, which were of stone, with round towers at intervals, these were of brick, guarded by miniature open bastions. In the middle of each side was a square bastion, projecting from the curtain into the fosse; at the back, in its centre and at its angles, were bastions with faces and flanks, resembling on a small scale those of a regular hornwork. The foundations of these may be found partially covered with earth and vegetation.

It is somewhat remarkable to find such a contour of fortification in the case of a castellated dwellinghouse like Kirby Muxloe; for it was clearly devised with a view, not merely to defence, but offence, and to the employment of firearms. If not, why introduce bastions with flanks and faces, affording the means of commanding the approaches in every direction, and enfilading the spaces between the bastions? Surely such an outline of construction was not necessary if crossbows, and bows and arrows merely, were used. As the Castle was built (or at least the license was granted to build it) within ten or twelve years before the Battle of Bosworth Field was fought, and as artillery was employed in that memorable conflict, it would seem possible that the gradual introduction of the new engine of warfare was rendering necessary, thus early, a change in castellated architecture. Should this prove to have been the case, Kirby Muxloe Castle will possess one more claim on the interest of archæologists, in addition to those which it is already entitled to as the only example of its kind now standing in this county. Ranking in date with Hurstmonceaux Castle and a few others, it seems to have escaped the notice of writers on architecture; but its use in illustrating the progress of society from the days of feudal rudeness, when the castle was built in massive strength, as if always ready to receive a hostile attack, to the times when the baron's dwelling needed only such arrangements as fitted it for defence against the assaults of mere marauders—the provision against general lawlessness in the former case, and local lawlessness in the latter, being thus significantly indicated—the use, I say, of the building now partially

CORNELIUS ARMSTRONG CARVED FOLIAGE

✠ STAINED GLASS STOCKERSTON LEICESTERSHIRE

standing near to our town, and in our county, is to serve as a speaking memorial of social progress, and an eloquent and expressive contrast to our now orderly and peaceful age, in which the city needs no walls and the country mansion neither fosse nor drawbridge; and therefore is the ivy-mantled ruin, with its desolate chambers and its silent courtyard—though no longer resonant with the din of armed men or the merry mirth of the hawking party—worthy the tutelary protection of its owners and the watchful regards of this society.

December 26*th*, 1859.

THE REV. ROBERT BURNABY in the chair.

A communication from the Secretary of the Lincolnshire Architectural Society respecting the present state of Croyland Abbey, together with Mr. G. G. Scott's report was read.

MR. G. C. BELLAIRS exhibited a large coloured drawing of a figure in painted glass, in the east window of the north chapel in Stockerston church. Nichols gives an account of the painted glass in this church, as described by Mr. Smith in 1747, much of which had disappeared when he published his history of Gartree Hundred in 1798. Nichols concludes by saying, "from this inadequate description of the fragments which still exist, and from the specimen of them given by Mr. Basire in plate cxxiii., some idea may be formed of the excellence of the whole when perfect; and we have only to lament that from the obscurity of their situation in a remote village, they have been so ill preserved" (page 822). In 1851, it was stated that "during the incumbency of the late rector, who resided at another living some distance from Stockerston, much of the stained glass was taken away or broken by glaziers who came from time to time to mend the windows; and as there was no person on the spot to prevent it, much mischief was done to the stained glass, and in fact to the whole church." The figure exhibited by Mr. Bellairs was S. Clement, with tiara on his head and a crozier in his right hand, from the wrist of which is suspended a large anchor. He is habited in a chasuble and other sacerdotal vestments. In *The Calendar of the Anglican Church Illustrated*, the following account of him is given:—"November 23. *S. Clement I.*, third Bishop of Rome, A.D. 100. He is generally believed to have been a Jew by birth, and was certainly the companion and fellow-labourer of S. Paul, being mentioned by him in his Epistle to the Philippians, ch. iv., v. 3,

where he styles him his fellow-worker, and ranks him with those whose names are written in the book of life. He was ordained Bishop by S. Peter, and afterwards succeeded to the See of Rome, in the year 91, being thus third Bishop from S. Peter. He reigned nine years, and was the author of one certainly, and probably two very excellent epistles, the first of which was so much esteemed by the primitive Christians, that for some time it was read in the churches. He was condemned for the sake of his religion to hew stones in the mines. Eusebius says he died in the third year of Tragan, about A.D. 100; others style him a martyr. His legend relates that he was cast into the sea with an anchor about his neck, and that on the first anniversary of his death the sea retired from the place where he suffered, though three miles from the shore, and discovered a superb temple of the finest marble, which contained the body of the Saint. The sea withdrew in this way for several years, for seven days in succession. In allusion to this circumstance, the device of an anchor may be seen in various parts of the church S. Clement Danes, London, and on the boundary marks of the parish. Plot, in his history of Staffordshire, p. 430, describing the Clog Almanack, says a pot marked against the 23rd of November, for the feast of S. Clement, from the ancient custom of going about on that night to beg drink to make merry with. He is sometimes, though not often, represented as a Pope, with the tiara and cross. He generally has an anchor either beside him, in his hand, or suspended from his neck. His martyrdom is represented in Le Clerc's Almanack, but as we have no well authenticated account of the manner of the death of S. Clement, the anchor is by some supposed to be allegorical of his being commissioned by S. Peter to guide and control the ship of the church, or of his constancy and faith. He is sometimes represented with a fountain near him, which sprang up in answer to his prayers in a desert place among the mines, where he and his fellow-labourers were suffering from much thirst. We have forty-seven churches in England named after him alone, and one in conjunction with S. Mary." Mr. Bellairs also exhibited drawings of some ornamented glass quarries in the Church at Goadby Marwood.

Mr. Gresley exhibited a copy of Burton's Description of Leicestershire (1622), from the library of S. P. Wolferstan, Esq., of Statfold, Staffordshire, formerly the property of "Franc Burdet," second baronet of that family, of Foremark, Derbyshire, whose MS. notes and references are numerous throughout the volume, but who, as remarked by the late S. P. Wolferstan, Esq., was "no great adept." A subsequent writer has added a few observations, with the date 1636 to one of them. Afterwards this volume came into the library at Thorpe Constantine, Staffordshire, where it appears to have had a few other very neatly written notes added (given below), respecting which the owner of the library shortly afterwards has

written under Gracedieu. "This story and some other remarks, as in Garendon, Shepeshed, and Belton, were writ, I believe, by a writing master who lived at Shepeshed, and disobliged by Sir Ambrose; but whether with truth related or no, I know not. He was a drunken, idle fellow, his name Yarrow, who I fancy might write them when he taught to write at Thorpe. Wm. Inge." Mr. Wolferstan has added, "the explanation of this matter seems given by Yarwood himself in p. 89," under Dishley. The register of Dishley chapel, now in the custody of Mr. Phillipps, of Garendon, might throw some light upon the subject. The following are Yarwood's notes. The words between brackets are Burton's text.

Dishley Grange.—[This Church] Yarwood's burying place [is now become a donative, and is in the grant of the Earle of Rutland], now, A D. 1699, ye grant of Sr Ambrose Phillipps of Garenton,—p. 89.

Grendon.—[Is now the inheritance of the right Honourable Francis Earle of Rutland.] Since it came to Geo. Villiers Duke of Buckingham, who married ye sd Ld Francis's daughter, and ye sd Duke sold it to Sr Ambrose Phillipps, Kt., who now enjoys it, and at a vast charge diged up ye foundation of ye great church, threw the Abbott's bones into ditches, and the stone coffins was sold to make horse troughs on. An.D. 1.6.9.5,—p. 113.

Gracedieu.—The church was standing till the year of our Lord 1696. The Monastery being purchased by Sr Ambrose Phillipps, he pulled down the church, but hath not yet diged up the foundation, nor sold ye coffins, as his digers did at Garrington.—A Notable Relation. One Judge Beaumont, living at Gracedieu, two men came before him for justice, and one of the men praid that the ground might open and he might sink, if what he attested in his own case was not true; and the ground immediately
but the judge, by poynting with his finger, ordered them to go ost (out?) and it closed again; and that place will now sound being struck on, as Rob. Beaumont, of Barrow on Trent, Esq., who marryed one of Sr Thomas Beaumont's coheirs, and had his pt. of ye estate, affirmeth. See page the 42 in Belton Bromley,—p. 119.

Gracedieu.—[John Beaumont, son of John Beaumont of Gracedieu, 1622, and Elizabeth, daughter of John Fortescue.] It's reported by old men that knew him, that he did leap sixteen foot at one leap, and would commonly at a stand leap jump over a high long table in the hall, and light on the settle beyond the table, and raise himselfe straight up,—p. 121.

Groby.—1699. It is now ye land of Tho. Earle of Stamford: he hath a fish pond here a mile about,—p. 122.

Hatherne.—The now patron is Sr Ambrose Phillipps, Knight. Mr. Glen, Rector,—p. 129.

Knighthorpe.—In the late Warr it was the inheritence of one

Symon Ridgley, and here John Yarwood the chymist, was born, March 29th, 1643. It is now the possession of John Wilson, Esq., 1699,—p. 155.

SAPCOTE.—Leonard Lowe, Rector, 1699,—p. 240.

SHEPESHEAD.—Quinsey, Earl of Winchester, had a Castle here. The heir of Sr John Beaumont was Sr Tho. Beaumont, and the patronage of the Church came to Rob. Beaumont, who married one of the Coheirs of Sr Tho. Beaumont, and hath sold it to Sr Ambrose Phillips, who is now Patron, 1699,—p. 250

THORPE-HANKER.—[Sir Thomas Leuknor, Knight, in 31 of Henry the sixt was seized of certaine lands heere,] as Yarwoods also was: there were three or four families of them in that small town, which is in the parish of Dixley,—p. 286.

WHATTON.—Will. Robinson, Rectr,—p. 302.

Loose in the volume is a letter to Burton from his publisher, who is described on the engraved title page as "John White at the holy lambe in litle Brittaine near vnto Aldersgate Street." It helps us to account for the numerous typographical and other errors in the first edition of the History, of which Burton, in his valediction to the reader of the second edition, which he had prepared in 1631, says,—

"This work was first begun in 1597, not many years after my coming to the Inner Temple, not with an intendment that ever it should have come to public view, but for my own private use, which, after it had slept a long time, was on a sudden raised out of the dust, and by force of an higher power, [George, Marquis of Buckingham,] drawn to the press, having scarcely an allowance of time for the furbishing and putting on a mantle."—*Nichols, East Goscote Hundred*, p. xx.

The following is a copy of White's letter,—

"Sr,—I have often sent unto you, but of late receaved noe letter, nor worde from you, wch makes mee the more to marvayle, consideringe how earnestly I have written unto you, and wth all how earnest you was wth me to finish your booke, wch is now done, and all thinges are ready, though not wth out more charges than might otherwise have binne done had I not thought you would have made more hast upp. Wherfore I pray you that you will now come upp, and not suffer mee to lye thus in suspence, for you are both a hinderance to mee & your selfe: for if any bookes come to bee dispersed you may thanke your selfe for it, though I have used the best meanes I could to the contrary.

"Now therfore I pray you, all other occasions layd aside, fayle not to come upp: otherwise if you neither come nor send, I shall thinke you neglect it over much, and it beinge done I must make somethinge of my bookes towards my charges. I had thought you would never have neglected it soe much. Sr, I have forborne to send you the sheetes of your booke, doubtinge whether they have

formerly miscarryed, and therfore at your comeinge upp you shall receave them heare. For the table you promissed I should not staye for it, but if I had stayed for you I thinke I might have stayed to loose this tearme. Therfore, good sir, as I have binne carefull for you to hasten (at your request), soe bee you now as mindfull of yourselfe and mee, as this occation requires, for it concernes your selfe as well as mee. Thus expectinge noe answer bvt your owne presence wth present expedition, I rest this xxiiiith of October, 1622.

"Your worps. to Comand,
"JOHN WHITE."

Indorsed,—

To the worll. and my verye good Freind Mr. William Burton, Esquire, at Falde, neare Tutbury in Staffordsheire, these bee add[ressed.]

I pray deliver this Letter with all speed, for it requireth great hast, & concernes Mr. Burton very much, fayle not.

This letter seems to have had the desired effect. Burton's address "to the reader," prefixed to his history, is dated from Falde, October 30th, 1622. The blank parts of the sheet have been nearly covered with genealogical memoranda of Leicestershire families, in Burton's handwriting, I think, judging from the examples of it in *Nichols' Sparkenhoe Hundred*, p. cix.

THE REV. J. H. HILL read a continuation of extracts from the Diary of the Rev. Humphrey Michel, which are here given annexed to some extracts read by him on a previous occasion.

DIARY OF THE REV. HUMPHREY MICHEL,

RECTOR OF BLASTON AND VICAR OF HORNINGHOLD, 1675-1722.

MR. HUMPHREY MICHEL, the author of the following diary, was presented to the rectory of Blaston by Mr. William Goodman, patron thereof, A.D. 1675; and upon the nomination of Sir Edward Hungerford, Bart., he was inducted to the vicarage of Horninghold, A.D. 1676, which preferments he retained to his death, in the year 1722. This extraordinary and eccentric character was twice married; first to Frances, daughter of Everard Goodman, and grand-daughter of Sir Thomas Burton, of Stockerston, Bart., and secondly, to Mrs. Elizabeth Stretton. He published the following sermons: the first entitled "*Duplex in Carolicidas Querela*, or the innocent Blood

of King Charles the Martyr, still crying out against his petrified murderers, for either better humiliation from them, or else for worse—Indignation from God:" 1702-3. In the dedication he inveighs bitterly against the disciples of Toland, "who too presumptuously intrigued and attempted to seduce (if possible) even our sagacious and religious senate into an irreligious and infamous repeal of that Anniversary Fasting." In his second sermon, entitled "*Secunda et severior in Carolicidas Querela*," he endeavours, "to excite and exalt the penitential humiliation of Great Britain, for their sacrilegious murder, committed upon the sacred and innocent body of their right faithful and protestant monarch, Charles I." In these sermons "Pontius Bradshaw," "the Oliverian Atheist," and "Drydenian Rakehell," are unmercifully dealt with. Of Mr. Michel's two other sermons, the former is called *St. Paul's triumphant confutation of all the late Jacobitical Schism and Sedition;* 1702; and the latter is on the coronation of Queen Anne.

For further information respecting this singular man, the reader is referred to the Gartree volume of *Nichols' History of Leicestershire*, where will be found an account of the struggle between the rector of Blaston St. Giles and the tithe-owners.

Mr. Michel was buried under the altar in the church of St. Giles, at Blaston, in the year 1722.

The Diary of Humphrey Michel, 1707-11.

Mem. June 2, 1707. Mr. Conyers began to be a sharer with me in the Monthly Mercury, whereof April Mercury was the first with him.

July 28. Received then out of Mr. Henry Dent's close on the top of the pasture, twelve cocks of tithe hay, worth about 8s. Mr. H. Dent sold this close to Seaton Poor.

Oct. 31, 1707. Mr. J. Vern— dyed, presently after his wife, who were both secret persecutors of me, and encouraged all the rest of the Prig-pated Patrons in their unjust Law-suit agst me. I would have dedicated my discourse against Jacobitism to him, but because that was the subject he refused the dedication, and would not have had me printed it. Not long since he went post haste to Court to beg the favour there for one Mr. B——, his wife's nephew, who had shot to death an innocent harvest man in the field for the sake of his own cruel pleasure. Mr. John Dent observed to my younger son, how suddenly God had cut off Henry Co——s, his wife and daughter, and now Mr. Vern—, his wife and two sons. I know one who hoped and prayed that Mr. J. V—— might not live to be a lord, nor his wife a lord's lady. And his father, the Lord W——y, is now at Allexton, surviving both.

Nov. 13, 1707. My dear wife dyed of fifteen days' sickness, being about 62 years of age,* and about her usual time of going to public prayer; she told me and her sister, about the beginning of her sickness, that her wicked son John had broken her heart, which I believe in a great measure to be true.

Nov. 20. Paid to J. Smith, the clerk at Medbourn, for making my dear wife's grave in the chancel, 2*s.* 6*d.*; and for ringing the bell, 1*s.*

Nov. 5, 1707. J. M. was drunk and running about like a drunken sot, though he promised his mother upon her death bed he would not lead such a drunken course of life any more; and when I asked him where he had been, he answered, like Gehazi to his master, he had been nowhere.

April 13, 1708. Madam Atkins told me Dr. Cosins, Bishop of Durham, and his lady were both virtuous parents, and yet their children were as great reprobates as any, and are all come to nothing.

April 27. My daughter so impudent she sent me a patched shirt, and her brother the whole one.

May 16. Mrs. Atkins desired her husband to tell me what he heard last Wednesday in Worth's shop at Uppingham, and Mr. Atkins told me it was said by some there, that Mr. G. Ashby had said that he would justify that King Charles the 1st was legally put to death.

May 17. One Mr. Wilcox of Knawston, told me, before my son John and Robert Palmer, that the presbyterian Ffancourt of Oakham, (whose son I think is a presbyterian preacher,) swore when he voted for Mr. Ashby in another's name, that he had 40 shillings per annum in Leicestershire.

Alas! loyal Horseman! art by the foot outrun!
Cursed be thy fate at Oakham election!
Thou art swift in pleading, but in starting too slow,
Start then sooner next time, while Sherard can only afoot go.

The Election, May 12, 1708.

June 3. Going to visit my brother Goodman, I heard his wife say "it's pity my Lord Griffin should be put to death for being on "the right side;" by which, and other expressions, I perceived she was an obstinate Jacobitess, though she had my two unanswered sermons against Jacobitism.

* Sir Thos. Burton married a daughter of Henry Brook, Lord Cobham, by whom he had—

1. Ann, wife of Sir Abel Barker, Bt.
2. Elizabeth, wife of — Green, Esq., of Rolleston.
3. Frances, wife of Everard Goodman, Esq., whose daughter married Humphrey Michel, of Blaston, and died as stated above.

	£.	s.	d.
500 ser. at 4d. per ser. .	8	6	8
500 ser. at 4d. per ser. .	8	6	8
	16	13	4

I assert that Taylor's management of these sermons hath been an impediment, not only of the new imprint of 'em, but also of many others which the author was willing to have published in defence of the present government, both in church and state.

Let Mr. Lamplugh insert in the bill, whether Taylor dispersed my sermons at Oxford, Camb., Dublin, and Edinburgh, and whether he did not set the major of them behind his counter and elsewhere, and not disperse them at all. Taylor's ill dealing was not only a hindrance and damage and disgrace to me in these sermons, but also a hindrance and disgrace and damage to me in other which I had to print, and have to print still.

Smectymnuses was a counterfeit name (in Oliver's tyranny) of ffive presbyterian divines, ye two capital letters of whose name made up the word: S. M. Samuel Marshal,
E. C. Edmund Calamy,
T. Y. Thomas Young,
M. N. Matthew Newcomen,
W. S. William Saltmarsh;
Which ffive were some of the bitterest writers then against the Church of England.

Mr. Whiteledge, or Whiteleech, in Ave Maria Lane, a bookbinder, said Taylor was a dissenter, and seldom or never came to church, before my son; and Mr. Bowyer, a bookseller at the Rose in Ludgate Hill, said to the same purpose before my son John:

Subpæna 'em.

July 14, 1708. Andrew Smith of Hallaton observed of Parson Bohemy of Hallaton, that Parson Bohemy said in the pulpit, "now brethren, I could find in heart to give over preaching and come down to you and dance for joy that that wicked King Charles's head is cut off;"—that the said regicide parson's wife killed herself with poison, and that the said parson's only son became a fool, and lived and dyed a fool; and that the parson himself ran away from Hallaton at the Restoration, and was never seen there no more.

July 17, 1708. Left then with Mr. Lamplugh, Taylor's abusive letter, a copy of which he promised to keep.

Sept. 8. Memorandum. That my reasons why the parsons of Hallaton should not of right receive the 50s. which they now demand of Mr. John Conyer are these at present—

1. Because Mr. Conyer's estate belongs to Cromwell's manor, no part whereof was ever titheable to the church of St. Michael, which was endowed with the tithe of Gray's Manour.

2. Because as Mr. Conyer's estate belonged to K. Richard I. manour, all the tithes whereof were settled by the same pious Prince upon St. Giles's church, which being built first by him was his own Royal Donation, as appears by an ancient record at the Hist. Office in Lincoln, a copy whereof I let Mr. Conyer's uncle have.

3. Because the grandfather of my wife's father mentioned in his will, the tithes belonging to St. Giles's church out of his estate, but not one tittle of tithes from thence belonging to St. Michael's church, though he was very great with one Parson Shield of Hallaton, and left him in his will 40 shillings to preach his funeral sermon.

4. Because I have heard my wife's brother, Mr. W. Goodman, who sold to Mr. Conyer's* uncle this estate, say, that the 50 shillings now demanded was his father's sheer benevolence to Hallaton parson, and no debt of tythe at all, accordingly he gave Mr. Conyers collateral security.

5. Because I have heard my wife (who was a constant attendant upon her father during sickness) often affirm that when Mrs. Butler (wife of Parson Butler of Hallaton), came to demand 25 shillings as her husband's share, her father sent down Mrs. Butler word, that if she demanded the 25 shillings as due for tithes, she should not have the money, it being no debt of tithes, but his sheer benevolence, which he could and would withdraw at his pleasure; that as for the money which was due to her husband for malt, Paul should thereby pay her husband for that.

6. Because the freeholders' releases to one another upon the enclosure make so great an alteration, as to titheable lands, that the parsons of Hallaton cannot prove which were tytheable to my church and which were titheable to their church; neither can they show (I believe) by their own Tythe Book out of which lands the 50s. are due, and if they could show it by their book, their sole book is not proof enough in law, as I was told by Mr. Parker in my case between Sir Lewis Palmer and myself.

St. Michael I am sure hath wronged St. Giles, particularly as to Holt Closes, owned now by Leonard Vowe, but St. Giles hath not wronged St. Michael.

Sept. 5, 1708. George Stavely, Rector of Medbourne, demanded money of me for my wyfe's burial in Medburn chancel, though he gave me leave, and I had paid his parish clerk, John Smith, 2s. 6d., and Richard Nixon, the mason, 2s. 6d., for the same; and though we have a right of sepulture there, six shillings a year being paid

* The manor of Blaston was bought of William Goodman by Edward Conyers, some time before 1690, whose only daughter was married, 1696, to Baldwin Conyers, Esq., son and heir of Sir J. Conyers, Bart. Edw. Conyers died 1701, and the manor continued with his brother and successor, John Conyers, Esq., who enjoyed it till 1735, when it passed to Edw. Conyers, Esq., of Walthamstow.

for all such encumbrances, as appears by the Lincoln Record, *Lib: Capella de Blaston, in tempore Johan Dalderby Episc.* 1300.

Taylor sayes in his letter that Nutt published the sermons Redmayne printed; and Redmayne, I think, committed some of 'em to Nutt to be sold: enquire there for the money.

Nov. 6, 1708. George, Prince of Denmark, Lord High Admiral, Generalissimo of all the Queen's forces by sea and land, and husband to the Queen, dyed at Kensington Palace, Oct. 28, 1708, and they say was buried Nov. 4, 1708.

Nov. 24, 1708. Bought by my son John, 23 quarters, less two strikes, of the best malting barley, at about 24 shillings per quarter.

I left at London, in Easter Term, 1708, with Mr. Henry Clements of St. Paul's Churchyard, ten twin sermons,

Two of Jesu Adoration,
Two of the Martyrdom,
Two Jacobitism,
Two of the Union,
Two of Marlborough's victories.

Dec. 22. Paid Robt. Sewel of Uppingham 10s. for a new saddle, and mending an old one, by my son John.

Jan. 22. Mem: that from St. Stephen till then, there fell such a deep snow we could hardly get to church.

Mem: that according to Dalton, a miller is not to take above one quart of toll out of one strike of hard corn, such as wheat, provided it be carried to him and fetched from him by the owner; but if the miller fetches and brings it, then he may take two quarts: his toll dish must be according to the standard quart; neither is he to buy or sell grain either ground or unground, but to serve people with his mill as above said.

Buy the wonderful and deplorable Hist. of the Jews by Josephus Ben Gorion, price 2s.

The winter of 1708 was such a cold freezing winter that I was forced to preach but once a fortnight sometimes, for fear I should starve myself and my hearers, which case, the command of God, *I will have mercy and not sacrifice,* must constrain our obedience thereto.

March 6. Ordered Henry Brown and Robt. Williamson to have a pennyworth of ale apiece, and so every Sunday, till I forbid the same.

March 28. Left with Mr John Lamplugh, an attorney, my letter to my Lord Chancellor Cowper, touching my two martyrdom printed sermons, and my letter from my cousin Carter, an antient Counsellor, touching the White house estate at Blaston.

Mem: that Sir Littleton Powis, Judge, about Lady Day, 1709, acquitted one Barrett, though a murderer, being of the whig party and we doubt a briber, or somebody for hire.

Mem: that Will. Cowper, Lord Chancellor, determined against

Henry Carter, against the judgments of the Counsel on both sides, and all the Counsellors desired copies of Bletsoe's will, and we doubt bribery was the corruption to the utter ruin of the man and his child now kept by my charity.

The whig party causes (they say) generally prevail among the Judges, Justices, &c.

April 12, 1709. Given then to one Mr. Boucher, a Jacobite minister out of place, my two sermons agst the Jacobites, and my sermon upon the Queen's coronation, to convert him, and for his present support 2s.; he had lived as schoolmaster in Warwickshire, and was now going for Warrington, in Lancashire.

A tanner of Lutterworth comes every Tuesday to Harboro'.

The late Edward Conyers, Esq., ows me for a mortuary 10s., for about 22 Easter Offerings, at 5d. per ann., 9s. 2d., and for about 12 years' Easter Offering for his daughter, 12d.; sue Mrs. Vincent for these dues, she being Executrix.

1 0 2

April 16, 1709. Paid then by my son John to Mr. Ward, of Leicester, 3s. 6d. for the Archdiaconal Synodal, due at Mich. last.

April 29, 1709. Received of Samuel Henry, Samuel Goward, Mary Burton, Mary Jones, and Betty Ingram, Mrs. Goodman's servants, 2d. a piece for their Easter Offerings, due this Easter.

April 26, 1709. Paid to Mr. Hanbury, by Mr. Lamplugh, 20s. for counsel about Taylor.

May 3, 1709. Mr. L—— V—— (they say) dyed, and I doubt as he lived, a drunken God robber; he had been nine or ten days my scholar, and they say was carried home drunk from Bandy Carter's about five or six days before he dyed; and about an hour before he dyed he sent for Parson Ff——e to give him the sacrament, but I hear of no restitution he made to our churches, and yet some fools say he made a good end and made his peace with God. *Proh pacem ffallaciem!*

July 21. I gave a poor woman and other travellers taken by a ffrench privateer, the ship called the Martha of Dublin, 1s. for the town.

Paid then by my son John to Bishop Wake, 1s. 6d., for shewing my Institution into Horninghold and my priest's orders, 1s. for Institution, 6d. for priest's orders, which was more by six pence (I doubt) than was due by the canon. June 1, 1709.

June 11. Being St. Barnabas' Festival and Whitsun eve, one Thomas Holmes of Horninghold, a labourer, was dowsed three times for a witch, and did not sink but swim, though his hands and feet and head were all tyed fast together, and all this was done in the Dungeon Pit in Blaston, before 500 people (they say) and by commutation of punishment for stealing Mr. Atkin's malt.

June 17. Being Whitsun week, one Elizabeth Ridgway and Jane Barlow of Horninghold, were both by consent dowsed for witches, and did not sink but swim, though their hands and feet

were tyed together before some thousands of people at the Dungeon Pit in Blaston lordship.

June 18. The said Jane Barlow, 40 years old, would be dowsed again to clear herself, but in the great close Pond, because she said that was not enchanted as Dungeon Pit (she said) was, and yet in the sight of many hundreds of people and myself she did not sink there but swim again, though she was ty'd as before, and one Mary Palmer, her sister, a cripple from her cradle, almost 42 years old, was dowsed there for a witch several times, and though bound hands and feet did not sink but swim before all the said company, whereas one Joseph Harding, servant to Robert Clarke, being hired with a collection of our money, to be dowsed, and being bound hands and feet did not swim, but sunk immediately like a stone before us all.

Aug. 18, 1709. William Kerby told me that Parson Boheme of Hallaton, being a Presbyterian parson, ordered one Hugglescote, a slater, to wash out the King's arms in the church, whereupon the slater said to the parson, "Sir, Must I wash out Fear God, too?" "Yes, yes, by all means," said the parson, "for Fear God puts the people in mind of Honour the King, a notorious rogue."

Aug. 15, 1709. One ffrances Sharp, the wife of Thomas Sharp, was buryed, and was in all probability bewitched to death by one Widow Ridgway; for the other confessed that the said Ridgway appeared to her in very terrible shapes, and before she dyed she neither ate nor drank of eleven days, but said she could have done both very heartily, but that the little thing in her bosom told her she must do neither; and while the white witch of Kibworth, one Clow, had ordered a charm to be sewed, and kept it in her shift about her bosom, she did eat and drink, but when she had scratted it away, she never ate nor drank more. Witnesses, her own sister, her sister's daughter, &c., &c.

Sept. 12, 1709. Mem: that my servant Mary Ellis I would not hire again because she is a heathen in point of knowledge, very idle in her way of work, has spoiled several vessels of wood, pewter, and brass, lost my door key to have my house robbed, &c.

Oct. 2, 1709. A wench of the widow Barlow, a supposed witch, went out of the church when I had named and read my text, Deut. chap. 18, where is the word witch.

I hired Elizabeth Gibbon of Hallaton to serve a year for 40 shillings, whereof she had 12 pence in part, witness, my son John.

Jan. 20, 1710. They say that one Gervase Butler and one Mary Michel were married by Thos. Michel, but utterly against her father's consent, so rebellious a rogue was the son, and so rebellious a jade was the daughter.

Left with my Lord Nottingham, in cherry time, about St. Peter, *Scheba Sacerdotalis*, &c., and two sermons against rebellion, upon Neh. 2, &c., "Will you rebel against the king?"

Oct. 5, 1710. Sent my Lord Nottingham—

1. Sovereignty subject to duty, a Sermon, preached at the Queen's Coronation.

2. *Subditi Regicidæ, &c.*, preached Jan. 30, 2 Sam. i. 14.

3. The spirit of disloyalty disapproved, &c., preached Jan. 30: Prov. 30. "Against whom, &c."

4. *Regicid: David: Reprobat:* preached Jan. 30: 2 Sam. i. 14.

Nov. 2. Received back from my Lord Nottingham—*Antidot: Stoughton:* and my 2 sermons, Neh. ii. 19, "Will you rebel," &c.

Jan. 12, 1711. Steeped at Barradon for me six quarters of good barley then paid for at 2s. 9d. per strike, the said six quarters of barley at 2s. 9d. per strike was bought of Adam Elsam, whose strike is counted the best measure.

Jan. 15, 1711. They say about Monday T—— B——, another of my persecutors, was suddenly deprived of his life, according to that commination of David, *God ordaineth his arrows against the persecutors.* So that other commination of God, Cursed be he that smiteth his neighbour secretly. Amen. He dyed of diabetes, the same distemper that his co-partner in sacrilege, E. C., and the royal rogue and God Robber, Belshazzar, dyed of.

Jan. 22, 1711. Received then of Mr. J. Conyers, Mr. Prudham, &c., the sacrilegious sum of six pounds for a year and a half's tithes, due at Michs. last. Paid Conyers off then for grind and butter.

Jan. 24, 1711. Paid then to Mr. Anthony ffish, ye hatter, for my wedding hat, 12s., with a rose hat-band, witness, Betty Burton.

Mem: that Rob. Clark of Horninghold, sometimes a goer to another parish church, but for the great part a goer to Ashley Barn Conventicle, did gather together at a cockfyhting at Medbourn, at Sturgesses, one Rock, of Wellingborough, with many other profane fellers, Jan. 25, St. Paul's conversion; such unserious, ungodly, unthankful wretches are some church folks and some conventiclers upon the holy festival of that wonderful convert!

Jan. 30, 1710. Mem: that I officiated not then at Horninghold for fear I should catch cold to ye hazard of my life from the chancel windows, these being broken, and yet Mr. Atkins, the impropriator, would not upon my several warnings of him get 'em mended this frosty and snowy weather.

Feb. 4. Mem: that John Fish the Quaker, borrowed of me long since back *Eikon Basilike* and Dr. Sacheverell's serm.

March 5. Had of John Dumbartha, Scotchman, 3 yds. of black silk for a scarf for my wife, about 12 shillings; he would needs leave it.

March 17, 1711. Lent John Fish by my son John, 4 guinneys, to be paid me again in guinneys.

Paid then Mr. Ant. Fish by his labourer, 9 shillings for six strikes of oats by my servant, Betty Burton.

March 21, 1711. Had of Saml. Porter 2 quarters of veal, about 4s., a loin of veal, 1s. 2d., calf's pluck, head, and feet, about 2d.

March 29, 1711. Had of Saml. Porter, a hinde quarter of veal at about 1s. 8d. *March* 31, a fore quarter of veal almost 14 pounds, at about 2s.

April 5. Had of Mr. Conyers a pound of butter 4d.

April 11, 1711. Had of Saml. Porter, a leg of mutton, 1s. 3d., five pound and a half.

May 3, 1711. Mem: my son John bought for me 6 t'winters* at £6., 1 at £2., 1 at £1. 11s., his charges 1s. 6d., driving home, 1s. 6d., 1s. for his pains. John Fish paid him then but £3. 15s. for the 4 guinneys he borrowed of me.

May 15, 1711. Received then a pound of butter from Mrs. Conyer, 4d., towards tithes; and ground the next day at her mill one strike of malt, 1d.

June 13. Had of John Pott—

12 yards half silk . .	12	0	
4 yards of calico, 2s. 8d.	10	8	
1 yard of calico . .	2	4	
	1	5	0

July 6, 1711. Sir Edward Hungerford (my patron for Horninghold) deceased; having in a few years spent an estate of 15 thousand per annum, said my Lord Rockingham's news letter, July 9, 1711.

July 21, 1711. My Lord Nottingham sent me from Burley Park a haunch of venison an inch and a half thick of fat, for which I gave his keeper half a crown, the haunch weighing 19lb.

July 22, 1711. Sunday, eight past Trinity, I saw none of Mr. Lowth's family at church, I suppose they stayed at home to look after the venison pasty, or they disliked my discourse in vindication of the Lord's prayer against the Presbyterians.

Richard Varney or Verney, Lord Willoughby de Broke, died about July 28, 1711, being aged 90 years, born or baptized Jan. 28, 1621; his estates and honours are descended to Dr. George Verney, prebend of Windsor, his only son.

* "*T'winters*," for *two winters*, a current word, in Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, for horses, when they have passed the second winter and are not arrived at the third.

Leicestershire

Architectural and Archæological Society.

27th February, 1860.

Mr. Thomas Nevinson in the chair.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley exhibited five iron arrow heads, purchased at Salisbury about twenty years ago, and said to have been then recently found in the moat at Clarendon, Wiltshire. Four of them are barbed, and the other forked. One of the latter description was found some years ago at the Bird's Nest, about two miles from Leicester, near the road to Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and is now in the collection of M. H. Bloxam, Esq. During the sewerage works lately effected in Salisbury several arrow heads were discovered, which are engraved and described in the *Archæologia*, vol. xxxiv. They are now objects of uncommon occurrence, although the bow and arrow was once a weapon of universal use in England.

Mr. Gresley also exhibited two powder flasks from the armoury at Alton Towers. They are probably of German manufacture, and of about the date 1600. One of them is of horn, and has incised upon it a man with a shield and a knife or sword, prepared to repel the assault of a wild beast which is rushing towards him. A flask very similarly ornamented is in the Meyrick Collection (see Skelton's *Engraved Illustrations*, &c., pl. cxxiv., fig. 6). The other is of wood, carved on one side with arabesque work, and the other inlaid with ivory, representing a sportsman with his dog, shooting a deer under a tree. Other inlaid portions of ivory have arabesque ornaments, birds, a house with a woman drawing water from a well, and a nude figure stabbing herself with a sword.

The Rev. J. H. Hill exhibited a pedigree (copied over) of Sir William Burton, of Stockerstone, drawn up by one of his descendants, the Rev. Humphrey Michell, rector of Blaston St.

Giles, about 1711. The Greens of Rolleston, are also descendants of Sir William.

Mr. Hill also exhibited tracings of portions of the stained glass remaining in Stockerstone Church. It will be remembered that a coloured drawing of a very fine figure of S. Clement was exhibited by Mr. Bellairs, at the December meeting of the Society. S. Christopher occupies another compartment; upon his shoulders he carries our Lord as a child with a globe in his hand, and wades through water supported by a staff, as recorded in his legend. There is also a good head of our Lord with uplifted hands. A female kneeling before a book on a faldstool, has on her mantle the arms of Boyville and Murdac, impaling Southill: scrolls near her are inscribed "*God be gude.*" In another compartment kneel Thomas Restwold, Esquire, and Margaret his wife. The head dress of these ladies, known as the *butterfly* head dress, consisting of a caul, from which large gauze or linen veils project behind, held out by means of wire, shows them to be of the latter part of the 15th century.

Mr. Goddard exhibited an early translation of Thomas à Kempis, and a small Bible with silver corners and clasps, printed at Cambridge by J. Field, 1653. Oliver Cromwell is said to have distributed these small but well printed editions of the Holy Scriptures among his soldiers; and during the Crimean war, Bibles about the same size, accompanied by the Book of Common Prayer, were provided by authority for the English soldiers.

Mr. G. H. Nevinson exhibited a number of Roman coins, among which were some third brass of Gallienus and Tetricus found near Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

The Chairman exhibited a marble tablet of the Adoration of the Magi, of good design and execution. Portions of it had originally been gilded.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley further exhibited an impression of the monumental brass at Castle Donington of Robert Staunton, Esq., and Agnes his wife. She died on the 18th of July, 1458, and the monument was then executed, spaces being left in the fillet of brass which has the inscription, for the subsequent insertion of the day and year of her husband's death, which, however, was never completed. This is by far the finest brass remaining in the county, excepting perhaps one of an ecclesiastic at Bottesford. Robert and Agnes Staunton are represented under canopies of remarkable richness, the pinnacles of the sides and centre of which are unfortunately gone, as are also four shields of arms which were placed between them and the finials of the canopies. The first five words at the commencement of the inscription are also lost, and the first word of the year. He is clad in plate armour; a mentonière or gorget protects his throat, pauldrons his shoulders, and coudières of immense size his elbows; his gauntlets are com-

Pedigree of the family of Burton. By Rev. H. Michel.

Sir W. Burton is, by that author (query the historian of Leicestershire?) affirmed to have been one of the Justices of the King's Bench, in the reign of Edwd. III. He was Lord of Foxton, and had other lands in the county of Leicester, but Toltrop in Rutland was his chief seat. The pedigree setting forth his issue, and their several matches, is as follows, viz.:—

Sir William Burton, Knt., *ob.* 49 Edw. III.=Eleonor.

Sir Thomas Burton, Knt., *ob.* 8 Rich. II.=Margaret, daughter of John Greenham, Esq.

Sir Thomas Burton, Knt.=..... daughter of Simon Louth, Esq.

Thomas Burton, Esq.=.....daughter of Sir R. Brabeson, Knt., 1st wife.
=.....daughter of Sir Hugh Bushy, Knt., 2nd wife.

William Burton, Esq.=.....daughter of John Folville, of Ashby Folville, co. Leicester.

J. Burton, Esq., of Upingham=.....daughter of Thomas Bussing.

Thomas Burton=.....daughter of R. Lowe, of Denbigh, co. Derby.

John Burton, of Braunston, *ob.* 1 Mary=.....daughter of Blackdill (or Blackmill?)

William Burton, of Braunston=Alice, daughter of Richard Peck.

- John Burton=Ann, daughter and heiress of Thomas Digby, Esq.
  - Sir Thomas Burton=Philippa, daughter of Henry Brook, Lord Lord Cobham, Knt. of the Garter, 4 Q. Elizabeth.
    of Stockerston, co. Leicester, Bart., created 20th July, Jac. 20.
- Bartin Burton=Abigail, daughter of F. Chilsnly.
  of Oakham, Esq.
  - Andrew Burton, of Oakham, Esq.=
    - Cornelius?
  - Cornelius Burton, of Oakham, Esq.
- Simon Burton, of Braunston.
- Andrew Burton, of Exton, Gent.
- Mabell, wife of J. Booth, Gent.

Sir Thomas Burton, Bart.=Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Prettyman, Bart.

- Sir Thomas Burton, Bart,=Ann, eldest daughter of Sir Thos. Clutterbuck, Bart.
- 1. Anne,
  2. Abigail,
  3. Mabell,
  4. Elizabeth,
  5. Mary,
- Ann, wife of Sir Abel Barker, Bart.
- Elizabeth, wife of — Green, Esq. of Roulston, Leicestershire.
- Frances=Everard Goodman, Esq.
  - Frances=Humfrey Michel, Rector of Blaston.

posed of overlapping plates not divided into fingers, and have large cuffs. His body is protected by a breastplate, to which is attached a skirt of taces, or overlapping plates, from the lowest of which are fastened by straps two pointed tuilles with a baguette of mail between them. Cuisses protect the thighs, genoulières the knees, jambs the lower part of the legs, and pointed sollerets the feet, which rest upon a greyhound. A large sword is suspended on his left side by a belt which hangs diagonally from his right hip, where the hilt of his dagger may be seen in its scabbard. His spurs are of seven rowels, with long neck and curved arms. Upon his head he wears a vizored salade, having the vizor raised to show the face. Respecting this kind of helmet Mr. Bloxam remarks that "it made its appearance in the reign of Henry VI., to which period it seems to have been almost entirely confined." It derived its name from "*schale*, a shell or saucer, being a skull-cap with a rim or edge projecting much behind, and to it a moveable vizor was sometimes affixed. It is but rarely that we find it on sepulchral monuments." (*Glimpse at the Monumental Architecture*, &c., p. 191.) Shakespere, who observed everything, mentions this helmet in his King Henry VI., Act iv., sc. 10. Jack Cade, deserted by his capricious comrades the people, betakes himself to his heels, and finding his way into the garden of Alexander Iden, an esquire of Kent, thus soliloquizes:—

"Fye on ambition! fye on myself; that have a sword and yet am ready to famish! These five days have I hid me in this wood; and durst not peep out, for all the country is lay'd for me; but now I am so hungry, that if I might have a lease of my life for a thousand years, I could stay no longer. Wherefore, on a brick wall have I climbed into this garden; to see if I can eat grass, or pick a *sallet* another while, which is not amiss to cool a man's stomach this hot weather. And, I think, this word *sallet* was born to do me good: for, many a time, but for a *sallet* my brainpan had been cleft with a brown bill; and, many a time, when I have been dry, and bravely marching, it hath served me instead of a quart pot to drink in; and now the word *sallet* must serve me to feed on."

Agnes Staunton wears a supertunic, the sleeves of which are loose, but not hanging down as was the fashion earlier in this century. The collar of it is open, and shows a cross suspended from a chain round her neck. The waist is very short, and has an embroidered cincture. The sleeves of a kirtle or under dress appear at her wrists. Her head-dress is mitred, or rather heart-shaped. The hair is enclosed in a caul richly ornamented, over which is thrown a coverchef, dependent behind. Three daughters stand at her feet; with the exception of their not having the coverchef and the chain and cross, their dresses are similar to that of their mother. A small dog, with a collar with bells, is here added

to the family group. Four sons stand by their father; they wear tunics, and their hair is cropped short. These seven figures are of diminutive size. From the mouths of Robert and Agnes Staunton inscriptions proceeded. His is now gone but hers remains. It is in Latin, from the sixty-seventh Psalm, "Let the light of thy countenance shine upon us, and be merciful unto us."

Burton, in his description of Leicestershire (1622), p. 89, says of Castle Donington: "In the 24 of Henry the sixt, one Robert Staunton was seized of certaine lands heere:" and speaking of the church, he has the following paragraph, p. 90: "In the south-east window. The picture of a Knight in armour, on whose sur-coate *varry Arg.* and *Sable Staunton*, and his wife kneeling opposite to him, on whose upper vestiments the same *varry Arg. and sable.* On the inner garment before, *Azure seme de Fleurs de liz: a Lion rampant queue fursh, Arg.* nere to which window standeth a fair Marble Tombe, whereon is grauen these two Coates, and many others heere taken away and broken, the Crest to one remaining, viz. *A Cock's head betweene two wings*, (which I take to bee the Crest to *Staunton* his Coate,) with this inscription: *Hic iacet Robertus Staunton filius Thomæ Staunton Armig. & Agnes vxor prædicti Roberti quæ obijt* 18 *Julij* 1458. *& dictus Robertus obijt* 14. *quorum animabus misereatur Deus, Amen.*' From this description of the window and monument in the chantry chapel at the east end of the south aisle of Castle Donington Church, we are able to identify the esquire represented by the brass, and the names of two of his daughters: and to make some additions to the latter part of the pedigree of Staunton of Staunton Harrold, in Nichols' Leicestershire, West Goscote Hundred, p. 704:—

Sir William de Staunton, knt., 1330, had three sons:—1st, John de Staunton, living 1395, great grandfather of Margaret Staunton, daughter and heir of John de Staunton, who married Ralph Shirley, Esq., in 1423:—2nd, Thomas de Staunton, of Castle Donington, living in 1395, father of Robert Staunton, Esq., 1452, which Robert was still living at the time of the decease of his wife Agnes, daughter of . . . . . ., who died 18th of July, 1458, and was buried at Castle Donington, as recorded on their monumental brass, which shows them to have had four sons and three daughters, of whom Elizabeth married William Haselrige of Noseley, and Katherine married John Turville of Thurleston:—3rd, Harold de Staunton, living 1395.

There are good wood engravings of this brass in Boutell's *Monumental Brasses of England*, and a short notice of it at page 40 of that work.

April 30th, 1860.

The Rev. W. B. Moore in the chair.

Mr. Wing exhibited prints of S. Nicholas College, Lancing, now in the course of erection by Messrs. Carpenter and Slater, and of Kilmore Cathedral. Also a drawing of an early English pulpit by Mr. Street.

Mr. Ward exhibited a half groat of the debased silver of Henry VIII., minted at York, and found in a garden at Melton Mowbray.

Mr. Neale exhibited a figure in alabaster of S. George spearing the dragon, which may have formed part of a chimneypiece of the sixteenth or seventeenth centuries.

The Chairman exhibited a volume of Ecclesiastical Articles, Injunctions, Services, &c.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley exhibited two compartments, each about seventeen inches in diameter, of a medallion window of the end of the thirteenth century, obtained last summer by Sir Thomas Gresley, at Nurembergh. One of them represents the Resurrection of our Lord He has put aside the lid of the tomb, which is ruby with three trefoil ornaments in blue, and is stepping out of it, with His right hand uplifted in benediction, and His left holding a cross, from which hangs a singular pennon, the lower half of which is divided, as usual, into three streamers, supposed to be emblematic of the Holy Trinity. Around His head is a nimbus. His dress is of ruby, green, and yellow. The two soldiers wear hawberks of ring or banded mail covering the body, arms, and hands. Coifs or hoods of mail cover their heads. At the back of the head and below the chin may be seen a loose portion of the hawberk, which could be drawn up over the lower part of the face, and fixed by a strap which encircled the forehead. Silken surcoats, ruby and yellow, without sleeves, are worn over the hawberk. Such was the armour worn in England during the reign of King Henry III. The other medallion appears to represent the treacherous murder of Amasa by Joab, as recorded 2nd Sam. xx., 8-10. The figures are not in armour. Joab's head is uncovered. His dress is of blue, with an ornamented yellow border round the neck; and in his right hand he holds a short strong dagger. His left arm appears to be laid upon Amasa's shoulders. Amasa wears a yellow cap, turned up with fur. The sleeves of his under vest are of ruby, over which he wears a long loose yellow cloak, with a kind of cape. The legs of both figures have hosen, those of Joab's being white, and Amasa's green. The ruby which forms the ground of this medallion is remarkably rich. These medallions exhibit a considerable advance in the art of painting on glass beyond those of

the early part of the thirteenth century. The proportions of the figures are better preserved, and the draperies are treated in a broader, more easy, and natural style. An easy and graceful attitude is given to standing figures, by slightly swaying the body backwards, and resting its weight on one leg, somewhat after the manner of the antique. This position was often exaggerated to an absurd degree. The heads of this period are more delicate and refined than previously, but do not lose any of their force or vigour of character. The features continue to be strongly outlined, and a varied and natural expression is imparted to the eye and eyebrow. No attempt is made to distinguish the iris of the eye from the pupil, the whole being represented by one black dot The hair and beard are generally drawn in flowing locks, boldly expressed by the varying thickness of the outline.—See Winston's *Ancient Glass Painting*. Another piece of glass from Dresden has the date 1601, and representations of several saints. One with the name of S. IACOB on it (the brother of John, "slain with the sword") is remarkable as containing an old painting of the ancient instrument of decapitation, which subsequently obtained the name of *guillotine*, from its having been proposed to the National Assembly of France for adoption, early in the Revolution, by M. Guillotine, of Lyons, a physician. Randle Holme, in his *Academy of Armory*, printed in 1688, describes a coat of arms thus:—"He beareth *gules*, a heading-block fixed between two supporters, with an axe placed therein; on the sinister side a maule, all *proper*." He continues: "This was the Jews' and Romans' way of beheading offenders, as some write, though others say they used to cut off the heads of such with a sharp two-handled sword: however, this way of decollation was by laying the head of the malefactor on the block, and then setting the axe upon it, which lay in a rigget in the two side posts or supporters; the executioner with the violence of a blow on the head of the axe, with his heavy maul, forced it through the man's neck into the block. I have seen the draught of the like heading instrument, where the weighty axe, (made heavy for that purpose,) was raised up and fell down in such a riggetted frame, which being suddenly let to fall, the weight of it was sufficient to cut off a man's head at one blow." Holme perhaps speaks of a guillotine formerly used at Halifax, and described in the third book, chapter vi., of Holinshed's *Historie of England*, published in 1577, as follows:—"There is and *hath ben of ancient tyme* a law or rather a custome at Halifax, that whosoever doth commit any fellony, and is taken with the same, or confesse the facte upon examination, yf it by valued by fower counstables to amount to the somme of thirteene pence halfe peny, he is forthwith beheaded upon the next market day (which fall usually uppon the tuesdayes, thursdayes, and saterdayes), or else upon the same day that he is so convicted, yf market be then

helden. The engine wherewith the execution is done, is a square blocke of wood of the length of foure foote and a halfe, which doeth ryde up and downe in a slot, rabet, or regall, betweene twoo peeces of timber, that are framed and set upright of five yards in height. In the neather ende of the slyding blocke is an Axe keyed or fastened wyth Iron into the wood, which being drawne up to the top of the frame is there fastened with a woodden pinne, (the one ende set on a peece of woode, which goeth crosse over the two rabets, and the other ende being let into the blocke, holding the Axe, with a notche made into the same after the maner of a Sampson's post,) unto the middest of which pinne there is a long rope fastened, that commeth downe among the people; so that when the offendour hath made his confession, and hath layde his neck over the neathermost blocke, every man there present doth eyther take hold of the rope, (or putteth foorth his arme so neere to the same as he can get, in token that he is willing to see true iustice executed,) and pulling out the pinne in this manner, the head blocke wherin the axe is fastened doth fall downe wyth such a violence that yf the necke of the transgressour were so bigge as that of a bull, it should be cut in sunder at a strocke, and roll from the bodie by a huge distance. If it be so that the offendour be apprehended for an oxe, or oxen, sheepe, kine, horse, or any such cattell, the selfe beast, or other of the same kinde, have the ende of the rope tyed somewhere unto them, so that they drawe out the pin whereby the offendour is executed. And thus much of Halifax law, which I set down onely to shew the custome of that country in this behalfe."

At page 49 of Holinshed's *Historie of Ireland*, 1577, is a print of a decollation by means of such an engine, placed upon a scaffold. The cutting steel is suspended within grooves from the middle of a beam across the top, and the executioner is reaching to cut the cord which holds it with a knife, or is knocking it off a peg or button. The fall of the axe is about two feet and a half. This woodcut is used again in vol. ii., page 654.

Evelyn, in his Diary when at Rome, 6 May, 1645, says: "At executions I saw one, a gentleman, hanged in his cloak and hat for murder. They struck the malefactor with a club that first stunn'd him, and then cut his throat. At Naples they use a frame, like ours at Halifax."

There is a print of the "Halifax Gibbet" in Hone's *Every Day Book*, i., 147, from an old map of Yorkshire. The axe appears to fall as much as ten feet. It was last used in April, 1650.

The guillotine in the glass now exhibited does not appear to be so high as the soldiers who stand by it. S. James kneels, and places his neck upon the block. The executioner is setting the axe at liberty with his left hand.

Mr. Wing read the following Paper upon

CHURCHYARD CROSSES.

In the manners and habits of mankind we find an almost natural disposition to make use of emblems, the semi-barbarous exhibiting it as well as those advanced in civilisation; nor has the discovery of printing, and the consequent extension of education amongst all classes, superseded this practice. We may very readily conceive its convenience and importance when letters were taught only to a favoured few, as in times gone by; it was then amongst the means most effectual of making lasting impressions on the mind, and especially so of facts and doctrines connected with religion; hence the dark ages as the Mediæval period has been called, were so fruitful in ingenious symbolical inventions. In those times of ignorance, the fountain of Holy Writ, to which we can so happily resort, was scarcely accessible, at least to the multitude, and instruction in religion through any written medium was impracticable with them, by reason of their inability for reading. Then, as the mind and heart must be approached through the external senses, and as their ears could serve them only at the set times appointed for hearing, their eyes were fed more constantly with pictures or imagery; and by a kind of refinement of the latter there were presented to them symbols, to engage their reflection upon leading truths, and to impart a more abiding recollection of them. We may go farther back, for it was for this purpose, as well as others, that the Divine Founder of Christianity instituted Baptism and the Eucharist; and, in more ordinary usage, the Church has all along employed a multiplicity of outward and visible signs with similar intention; whilst of the many symbolical representations which she has introduced, first and foremost has been the cross. Indeed, every opportunity has been seized to obtrude this sacred symbol, until, through the perpetual tendency which there is in makind to extremes, it has served the purposes of superstition, and been degraded almost to a heathenish charm; but in its more legitimate treatment, it has been the crowning ornament of the domes and gables of Christian temples, it has been unfurled to the breeze as the banner of our strength, and has constituted the fairest emblazonment of the defensive shield. It is, in fact, the monogram of our principles; in Christian countries the most important solemnities have been thought defective without it, and in many, as in our own, it has been adopted as the chief feature of the diadem to grace the monarch's brow.

In England the cross existed in every churchyard before the iconoclastic havoc of the Interregnum; and various public crosses,

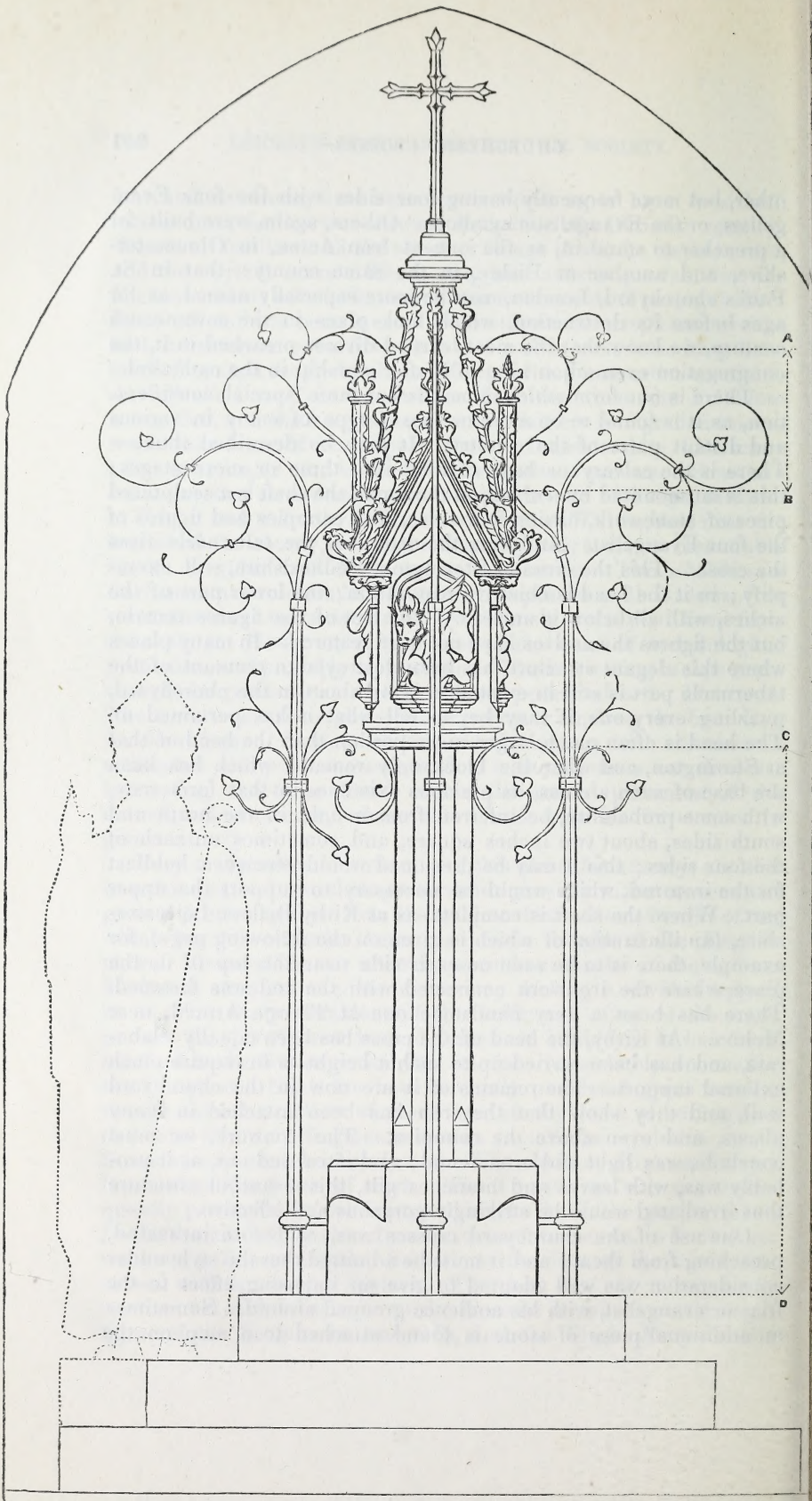
here and elsewhere, have been so numerous as to have furnished, in a manner, the livery or outward distinction of a Christian country. We are all familiar with the street or village cross, the market cross, and the wayside cross. Those exquisite artistic productions, the Eleanor crosses were built, we know, as monuments of conjugal affection; others have been erected to commemorate auspicious events, and, in instances not a few, places of public concourse have been marked conspicuously by these influential and instructive monitors. At "Paul's Cross," in London, in the olden time, the Folkmote assembled, and the king, when about to visit his foreign dominions, would take leave of his subjects there. Leicestershire, like many other counties, is studded over with remains of crosses. Some are worth scrutiny to ascertain their original beauty of design, as those at Frisby and Asfordby. The street cross at Willoughby, near the border of the county, we may remark by the way, is memorable for its singular luck in escaping destruction. The *abolitionist* Parliamentary soldiers had fixed their ropes to pull it down, but were converted to *conservatism* by a timely supply of beer from the rectory. However, in later times, from want of archæological protection, and probably in ignorance of the interesting escape mentioned, the greater part of it has been permitted to be destroyed. There were also the eight sanctuary crosses marking the boundary for the refugee. Various are the reminiscences and associations connected with public crosses, and of such structures not the least interesting are those found within the sacred precincts of the churchyard enclosure, whose forms and uses we have now to glance at.

Very many relics of antiquity of this class, fortunately, are still in existence, and owe their preservation possibly to the consecrated ground protecting them from the ruthless destruction of works of art, which has for centuries been the idiotic delight of the English clown. Some claim our attention as rude examples of the earliest Mediæval attempts at pictorial device; making a divided appeal to us from the venerable and the ludicrous. One of the most ancient in this district is to be seen at Rothley; it has been ascribed to the Saxon period, but its date is probably soon after the Conquest. Not a few have evidently possessed great beauty, though the construction of these has usually been of so fragile a character that only fragments remain to tell their pristine merit. Some have been rich in sculpture. The shaft at Higham Ferrers is an exquisite piece of work. The Crucifixion was not unfrequently portrayed on the front, and on the back the patron saint. In the remains of the churchyard cross at Sherburne, in Yorkshire, we have a fine example. Sometimes the foot of the cross was carved with figures and devices. The shaft was not uncommonly surmounted with tabernacle work; in some instances containing a figure of the Saviour on one side, and the Virgin Mary on the

other, but more frequently having four sides with the four Evangelists, or the Evangelistic symbols. Others, again, were built for a preacher to stand in, as the one at Iron Acton, in Gloucestershire, and another at Bisley, in the same county: that in St. Paul's churchyard, London, may be more especially named, as for ages before its destruction, which took place in the seventeenth century, we know that the most learned divines preached in it, the congregation even adjourning to it after worship in the cathedral.

There is one form which demands our more special consideration, as it is found to be more or less a type of many in various and distant parts of the country. It may be described thus:—There is the calvary or base divided into three or more stages; this is surmounted by a shaft; at the top of the shaft is a sculptured piece of stonework, having four sides, with canopies and figures of the four Evangelists; and from the centre of the tabernacle rises the cross. This the cross at Stevington, Bedfordshire, will exemplify; in it the head is chiefly a restoration; the lower part of the niches, with all below is ancient. The feet of the figures remain, but the figures themselves have not been restored. In many places where this elegant structure has been destroyed, a remnant of the tabernacle part is still in existence, lying about in the churchyard, puzzling every one, it may be, to tell what it has pertained to. The head is often much larger in proportion than the head of that at Stevington, and when the block only remains which has been the base of such a cross, its previous existence in that form may, with some probability, be inferred from a hole in the north and south sides, about two inches square, and sometimes on each of the four sides; this it may be presumed would receive a holdfast for the iron rod, which would be necessary to support the upper part. Where the shaft is complete, as at Kirby Bellars, Leicestershire, (an illustration of which is given on the following page), for example, there is to be seen on each side near the top of it, the place where the ironwork connected with the rod was fastened. There has been a very handsome one at Thorpe Arnold, near Melton. At Kirby, the head of the cross has been equally elaborate, and has been carried up to such a height as to require much external support. The remains of it are now in the churchyard wall, and they show that the iron has been attached in many places, and even above the canopies. The ironwork, we must conclude, was light and ornamental; and if carried out, as it probably was, with leaves and branches gilt, this beautiful structure thus irradiated would be strikingly gorgeous and effective.

One use of the churchyard crosses was, as before intimated, preaching from them; and it must be admitted that the style under consideration was well adapted to give an imposing effect to the friar or evangelist, with his audience grouped around. Sometimes an additional piece of stone is found attached to a step on the


A
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north side for the convenience of the friar or herald, or, it may be, of the bishop to give his benediction. They were also used for station performances, and for circumambulating with the corpse previously to interment. From them the Rogation processions started; and proclamations would be made from them. The cross would shed a sanctity upon the graveyard in times of superstition, and be supposed to exercise a guardianship of the dead. In more private use, before it the rosary would be counted out; and the devout would resort thither for meditation and prayer. There would be a peculiar solemnity at night, when the fanal or dead-light was kept burning. The building connected with the cross was sometimes constructed so as to serve the purpose of the fanal. The situation of the cross was usually on the south side of the church, but not invariably; a conspicuous place near to the chief entrance was chosen for it, for the better accomplishment of that which may be deemed the principal purpose, namely, to constrain the passers-by to think of Him who endured the agony it speaks of, and by its fructifying emblems, which essentially belong to it, to proclaim the benefits of his passion.*

A sundial on steps in a churchyard will, on investigation, prove to be the remains of the cross, so converted at the beginning of the eighteenth century.

It is impossible to dismiss the subject without the question forcing itself upon some of us, Is it desirable in this Protestant country to erect anew, even in an orthodox form, or to restore if dilapidated, these striking emblems of our faith? To advocate either side would introduce controversy inconsistent with the liberal constitution of our Society, but it may be convenient nevertheless, to state a few things which have a legal, an archæological, or an artistic bearing, with a remark also on the score of expediency. Churchyard crosses were not objected to for a century after the Reformation. There is no lawful authority for the removal of them. And we are not without examples erected in Protestant times. In the churchyard of Irgoldinell, in Lincolnshire, one dated 1600, has this very appropriate inscription:—

"Christus solus mihi salus."

The feelings of the antiquary would be most consulted by abstaining from restoration beyond what would be absolutely necessary to preserve the relics. As to the erection of new crosses, it might be urged that, designed with taste, they are ornamental accompaniments of our ecclesiastical edifices, and they could be constructed void of offence in minor details, whilst impressive in their principal significance. The cross itself, even that which served the Ransom

* The illustration on the opposite page shews the cross now existing at Kirby Bellars in this county, with the missing portions conjecturally restored. The stonework between A B and C D remains; the rest is a conjectural restoration.

of the world, as an object of worship, would be nothing; much less is a material representation of it an invitation to idolatrous honour. An inspired apostle contemplated in the figure of the cross, presented by his imagination, the great fact on which all his hopes were founded; and if benefit were experienced from a judicious employment of this heart-stirring symbol, could reason, it might be said, forbid the use of that which is most helpful in suggesting the principles in which alone we are taught to glory? On the other hand strong repugnance to the erection of these crosses would be felt by some on the supposed ground of inconsistency: it would be viewed by them as a return to Mediævalism, and would be identified with a recent movement which they deplore as having been accompanied with more defection to Rome in a few years than open emissaries could have effected in centuries. Neither are they few in number, nor unworthy of consideration, who entertain these feelings: they are perhaps the majority of the nation; their sentiments are not formed inconsiderately, and they are strenuously acted upon from a principle of loyalty to the Church of England. In existing circumstances, therefore, we must disclaim the advocacy of the erection of churchyard crosses. It must be extensively a scandal, and, however proper, if greater unity prevailed, we submit that now, at least, it is not expedient.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Northamptonshire Architectural Society inviting members to join their meeting at Worksop on the 7th and 8th of June.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

June 25th, 1860.

The Rev. G. E. Gillett in the chair.

Mr. Goddard exhibited a watercolour drawing of the interior of the Round Church, Cambridge, by the late Mr. Pugin, previously to its restoration by the Cambridge Camden Society, and another of the Colonnade under the Library of Trinity College, Cambridge, by Westall: also two circular fibulæ, a pair of shears about ten inches in length, and two flat circular pieces of stone or slate, of about two inches in diameter, being Roman antiquities discovered in Leicester: also an oval piece of brick, with the Crucifixion in relief upon it, which he picked up among some rubbish dug out at Brixworth Church, Northamptonshire. Mr. Goddard also produced some Chinese curiosities, brought to England by Mr. R. Cotton, of

Leicester, on the medical staff, who was present at the taking of Canton on the 27th and 28th of October, 1856. Of these a long silver hair-pin was much admired for the beauty of its form and ornamentation, and a lock for its ingenuity. Mr. Goddard remarked that the art of making porcelain in its excellency was now lost among the Chinese, and that there was in fact at the present moment more valuable old Chinese porcelain in Europe, perhaps in England, than could be found in the Celestial Empire itself.

The Rev. G. E. Gillett exhibited a shilling of King James the Sixth of Scotland; and a sixpence of Queen Elizabeth, found at Waltham on the Wolds, mint mark a crown.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley exhibited a copy of a portrait of Archbishop Laud, inserted in the register of South Kilworth, Leicestershire, given him by the Rev. A. Pownall, rector of that parish. Mr. Pownall says that it is an exceedingly clever drawing, apparently in crayons and Indian ink. Over it is written in an old hand," Willmus Laud, 1638. Vandyke del." Mr. Pownall has, however, discovered that it was drawn about sixty years ago by Dr. Griffith, some time Master of University College, Oxford, and cousin to the Rev. Charles Chambers, then Rector of South Kilworth, Dr. Griffith was somewhat noted as a draughtsman; and over the Altar in the Chapel of his College is a singularly curious copy by him of the Salvator Mundi, by Carlo Dolci, burnt in wood. The drawing does not much resemble the ordinary prints of the Archbishop, the face being here more elongated; and he wears merely a skull-cap, whereas the Archbishop is usually represented with a square one. His name written over it appears to be a magnified copy of Laud's autograph signature.

Mr. G. C. Bellairs exhibited several old coins, and read as follows respecting them from a letter from the Rev. J. Sankey, of Stoney Stanton:—" I see from the reports which appear from time to time in the *Leicester Journal* that various articles of antiquarian interest are exhibited at the meetings. It has occurred to me, more than once, to offer you for such purpose several things which you may, perhaps, think worth while to bring before the meeting. Inclosed is a coin of Sabina, wife of Hadrian (found near Soar Mill), which I suppose is not very common: at least out of 1144 Roman coins found at Richborough some years ago, there was only one of Hadriana Augusta (Wright's *The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon*, p. 371). I inclose also a medal of the celebrated John Lilburne, struck after his trial, on which he gives the name of the jury, who, he says, 'are judges of law as of fact.' Also a medal on the failure of Admiral Vernon's expedition against Carthagena, sarcastically terming Vernon 'Brave Admiral,' &c. I send also a small coin, of which I have forgotten what a friend told me some years ago. [A penny of King Eadgar, sole monarch of England from 959 to 975, whose coinage was very extensive. The legend

is EADGAR RIX: reverse, IERGER MO (netarius), the letters R being here turned upside down. The name of this moneyer does not occur in Ruding's list. *Annals of the Coinage*, &c., vol. 1, p. 132.] I have also one or two books, which at some time or other you may think worthy of inspection, *e.g.* a MS., 1343." The Secretary also exhibited a medal of Horne Tooke, the inscription upon which was partly the same as upon that of Lilbourne.

MR. JACQUES exhibited a small casket of brass, of Venetian workmanship, with the words MICHEL MAN upon it. The surface was divided into compartments, each of them having an engraving of a male or female figure in the dress of the early part of the seventeenth century. The ingenious works of the lock covered the under side of the lid, and the key-hole was artfully concealed.

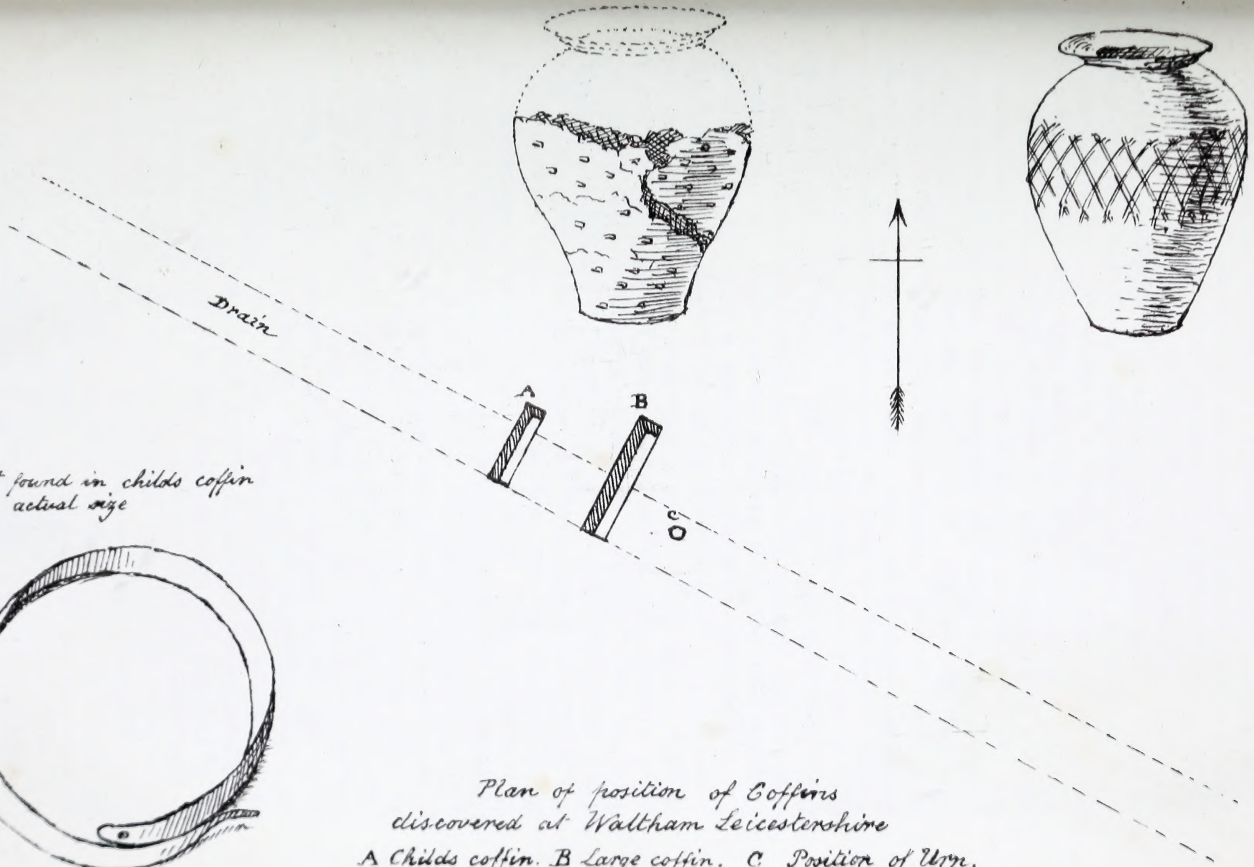
The CHAIRMAN said that he thought it might be of interest to the meeting if he recalled to their notice a discovery made several years ago in the parish of Waltham on the Wolds, of which some account appeared in the *Leicester Journal* of November 14th, 1848, as follows:—"On Monday, November 6th, as some workmen were digging a drain in a field in Waltham lordship, occupied by Mr. Musson, they came upon two stone coffins. . . . They were evidently those of a woman and child. The stones were unhewn, but put closely together, and the coffins were the same width in every part, each coffin consisting of seven stones. In the child's coffin, in which even the skull was almost decayed, was found a small bracelet, but nothing in the woman's. About seven feet from the woman's coffin the men struck their tools into an urn, which was of course broken, and so decayed as to have the appearance of earth itself. It was of the commonest description. There were ashes in it, but no coin was found, though it probably contained one. The heads of the coffins lay north-east by north." The measurements of these coffins was accurately taken, and the smaller one found to be in

Length inside,	2 feet	8 inches		2 stones on each side.
Width „	0 „	11 „		1 at each end.
Depth „	0 „	11 „		2 at bottom, 2 at top.

The larger one in

Length inside,	5 feet	8 inches	
Width „	1 „	1 „	as the former.
Depth „	0 „	11 „	

The head of each was on the same line. From the foot of the smaller to that of the larger was about seven feet, and from the foot of the larger to the urn also about seven feet. The urn was on the right side of the female, and may have contained the ashes of her husband, and the coffin of the child was on her left. The tops of the coffins and urn were about 11 inches from the surface. The stones were apparently from Goadby quarry in the lane from Waltham to Harby. The



Bracelet found in childs coffin
actual size

Plan of position of Coffins
discovered at Waltham Leicestershire
A Childs coffin. B Large coffin. C Position of Urn.

bracelet having been submitted by G. Norman, Esq., of Goadby Marwood, to the inspection of Thomas Bateman, Esq., of Yolgrave, Derbyshire, he returned the following observations, December 31, 1848:—"In answer to your inquiries respecting the age of the bracelet, I beg to state at once that it is impossible to name a precise date, though I think we can approximate pretty nearly to the age. The fact of the coffins being formed of slabs of stone, instead of being hollowed out of a single piece, indicates a period not remote from the time when the *kist-vaens*, or stone chests, beneath barrows and tumuli were so constructed, though in the present instance no hill seems to have been raised, which was frequently the case after the conquest of Britain by the Romans. The presence of a bracelet only, and no weapons, also points to the same conclusion; so that from analogous instances which have fallen under my own observation, I have no hesitation in saying that the interment took place from the third to the fourth century of our present computation, *i.e.* the Christian era. I may as well mention a few other things. The interments are most probably of a female and her child; and the bracelet is not gold but bronze, a composition of copper and tin, differing from our modern brass: it is ornamented with a punctured pattern at intervals, which I have noticed on similar bracelets found with coins in my collection, which is another strong argument in favour of my date. Further, if any sketch of the urn which is mentioned were made, it would materially assist in fixing its date with certainty." Mr. Bateman again wrote, March 31, 1849, as follows:—"The fragments of the urn have safely arrived here, and from their nature, and the apparent form of the vessel when perfect, there is but little doubt of the correctness of my idea of the period of the interments, to which I was led by a comparison of the bracelet with others in my collection." Again, April 6, 1849,—"Having joined the fragments of pottery as well as possible, owing to some deficiencies caused by the spade, I have ventured to trespass on your time again by sending you a sketch of the present form of the vessel, along with one of a Roman urn in my collection, in that you may be able to compare the two together. All the upper part of the urn being destroyed, the restoration of course is open to doubt: but I am fully confident that it is correct. The urn seems to have been an intended copy of the Roman, both in form and material, though in the latter case the attempt has been unsuccessful, the clay being much coarser, and owing to the decomposition of some kind of coarse sand which has been mixed with it, the surface of the vessel is very rough, which is not the case with Roman pottery, it being firm and hard. These little things serve to supply data from which I am able to support my former opinion of the age of the interments. You may perhaps think all this of no consequence; but this kind of study has long been a source of pleasure to me, and

when referred to, I can hardly avoid entering into details to support any opinion I may advance."

The Chairman exhibited copies of Mr. Bateman's drawings, and a plan of the locality of the interments. The bracelet was sent to the Duke of Rutland, who, Mr. Norman thinks, sent it to the British Museum.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley read the following paper upon

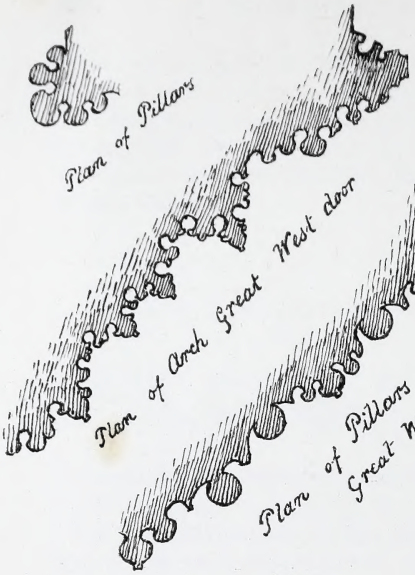
THE AUSTIN PRIORY OF ST. MARY OF NEWSTEAD IN SHIRWOOD, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

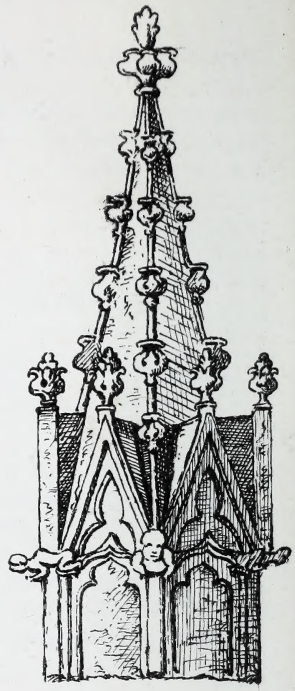
There seldom occurs so good an opportunity of thoroughly seeing a place as when it is going to be sold. I therefore procured the plans and particulars of the estate and house at Newstead, and visited it a week before it was offered for sale, as we saw reported in the newspapers last June.* They present a remarkable instance of the domestic buildings of a Monastery being converted into a baronial residence, the sites of the various parts of the original edifice being adhered to.

* The Manor or Lordship of Newstead contains about 3226 acres, of which the Park, inclosed with a stone wall, occupies about 881 acres, the woods and plantations within the Park are about 196 acres, and without the Park about 618 acres.

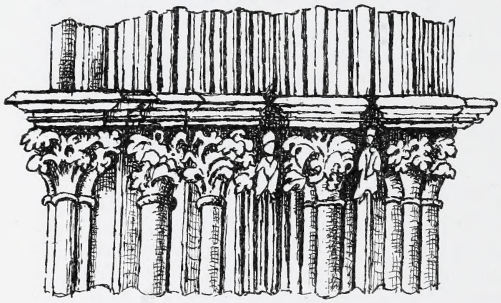
In the midst stand the remains of the venerable Abbey and baronial residence, which has, at vast expense, been restored by the late Colonel Wildman, under the superintendence of the late John Shaw, architect, F.R.S., and now forms one of the finest residences in England, containing on the principal floor the great dining hall, 58 feet by 24 feet, and 29 feet high, the private dining room adjoining, 24 feet by 18 feet, the great drawing room, 70 feet by 23 feet, and 20 feet high, the private drawing room, 24 feet by 20 feet, the library, 60 feet by 13 feet, all communicating with wide galleries. . . . . On the ground floor is the cloistered quadrangle communicating with the crypt, halls of entrance, with staircases and numerous apartments, and with the ancient Chapter-house, one of the most beautiful and interesting remains of the Abbey, and which is restored and used as a private chapel. The domestic offices have been rebuilt. . . . . The ancient terraced gardens in connection with the Abbey have been restored, and an excellent walled kitchen garden added to them.—*Advertisement of Sale.*

The property was offered by auction on Wednesday, June 13th. It was part of the conditions that the timber, valued at £28,600. odd, the furniture, estimated at £4750, and the pictures, library, and articles of *vertu*, should be taken or not with the property at the option of the purchaser. The property was put up for sale without the timber. The first bidding was £90,000. An offer of £120,000. was made by Mr. Tweed, the Town Clerk of Lincoln, on behalf, it was understood, of Messrs. Clayton and Shuttleworth, engineers, of that town; and £121,000. was bid by or for Charles Hardy, Esq. The property, however, was bought in at the reserved bidding of £180,000. including the timber. Mr. Pott, of Nottingham, was the auctioneer. It is now said to be sold by private contract to William Frederick Webb, Esq., late of the 17th Lancers, of Pepper Hall, Yorkshire, for £150,000. In 1818, when the property was last sold by auction, by Alderman Fairbrother, so great was the public interest taken on the occasion, that it was necessary to prop up the house in which the sale took place.



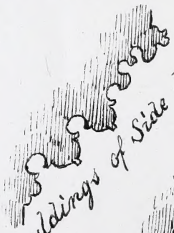


Pinnacles



Elevation of caps of Pillars
Great West door

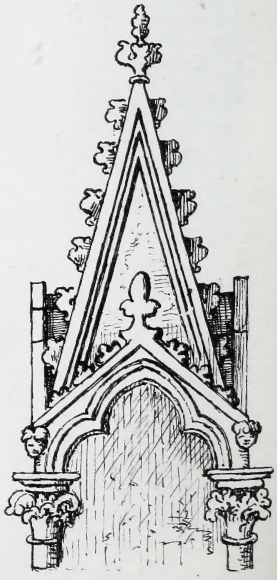
Battlements



Mouldings of Side door

Plinth.

Mouldings of Arch Great West Window.



Pinnacles of Buttresses.

Newstead. Nottinghamshire. G.C.B delt

But before saying more respecting them, I would observe that this Monastery of Canons Regular of St. Augustine, was founded by King Henry II. shortly before, or in, the year 1174, as appears from the fact of Geoffrey, Archdeacon of Canterbury, being the first witness to the foundation charter, from which preferment he was advanced in that year to the Bishopric of Ely. This Archdeacon was employed by Henry in his dispute with Archbishop Becket, who excommunicated him, and calls him in a letter to the Bishop of Hereford, "an Arch-devil, and limb of Anti-Christ." "I have given," says the King, "to God and St. Mary, the place which I have founded in Scirwood, and by this present charter have confirmed the same place to the Canons there serving God; and Paplewic, with the church of the same town, and the mill which the Canons themselves have made, and with all things pertaining to the same town, in wood and plain," &c.

Probably the only portions now remaining of the original Monastery, are two semicircular-headed Norman doorways, one of them (*a*) leading into the cloisters at the north-west angle, the other (*b*) at the east end of the south side of the cloisters; and also the arch of the lavatory (*c*) near this latter doorway, which is of the same character. The Chapter-house is next in date. The west front of the Conventual Church remains in exquisite preservation, excepting that the tracery of the large window has been destroyed. Rickman speaks of it as transitional from the Early English to the Decorated Gothic, *i.e*, of the close of the thirteenth century.* It is, in its architectural features, very like Salisbury and portions of Lichfield and Southwell. The details of it given in the plate are from drawings by Coney. It was evidently never completed. It is, professedly, the west front of a nave, with north and south aisles, which were intended to have towers, but they were never raised. The south aisle was evidently never built, for one side of the cloisters occupies the site of it, and it may be questioned whether the north aisle ever was, for the west window of it is, like that of the south aisle, blocked up with stone, although there is the commencement of an arch and groining for it near the west doors of the nave.† A statue of God the Son and St. Mary still occupies a niche high over the great western window, recalling to one's mind the lines of Lord Byron on the Angelic salutation—

Ave Maria! 'tis the hour of prayer!
  Ave Maria! 'tis the hour of love!
Ave Maria! may our spirits dare
  Look up to thine and to thy Son's above!

Ave Maria? Oh that face so fair,
  Those down-cast eyes beneath the Almighty dove!
What though 'tis but a pictured image? &c.

* Archæologia, xxv. 171.

† There is a good paper upon the Architecture of Newstead in the Journal of the British Archæological Association for April, 1853, by A. Ashpitel, Esq.

It is not, however, my intention to repeat on this occasion all the charming poetry with which Newstead inspired the muse of Lord Byron.

But little is generally known of the history of the Monastery. I find mention made of four chartularies, or ledger books, of the house, which contain transcripts of their title deeds, &c. Dugdale copies from one, then (1640) in the possession of Sir John Biron, which no doubt his ancestor became possessed of when he had the grant of the property from Henry VIII. The same MS. is referred to by Thoroton (1677), who calls it the book of Robert Cutwolf, Prior of Newstead in the time of Henry VI. "A ledger book, containing charters, &c., relating to Newstead Abbey, in Nottinghamshire, temp. Henry VI.," is mentioned in p. 158 of the Appendix to the Report of the Commissioners on the Public Records (1837), as in the King's Remembrancer's Office. Another is deposited among the Arundel MSS. in the Library of the College of Arms (Norfolk MS. 60).* Another is mentioned in Spelman's Glossary, p. 458, as, in 1630, in the possession of the Earl of Kingston. How far these four are alike I cannot say. We know that transcripts of their chartularies used to be deposited by Monasteries in other friendly religious houses, in order to the preservation of them in case of the destruction of the originals by fire or otherwise at home. Others were compiled for use at subordinate Cells and Granges. From these chartularies, and from our national records, much information respecting the Monastery might be collected.

The income of the house, just before its dissolution, appears by the report of an ecclesiastical survey, made in pursuance of an Act

* A quarto volume in its ancient wooden cover, one of them having an iron lock within it, which has fastened a clasp from the other side, but which is now gone. It contains 216 leaves of parchment, written in a fair hand, but has been mutilated. At f. 26—7, is a memorandum, "That this Manuscript, being ye Leiger Booke of the Dissolved Abbey or Priory of Newstead, in Com' Nottingham, did formerly belong to Thomas Freeman, of Sutton in the Dale, Gent., a Lover of Learning and Antiquitys. This Sutton is ye Seate of ye Rt Honor.ble Nicholas Earle of Scarsdale, vnder whose Auncesters the said Thomas Freeman had severall years served in the cheifest Trusts and with great fidelity and Reputation, in Testimony whereof the said Earles Auncesters Gave a Noble Annuity or Rent Charge of Sixty pounds per Annum to the said Thomas and his wife for their lives.

"At the request of my Learned and Honord Freind Ralph Heathcoate, Clerke, Rector of Morton in ye said Hundread and County, this Book was given unto me, Michael Burton, of Holmesfeild, and Wirkesworth in ye said County of Derby, Esqr., by Elizabeth ye Widdow and Relict of ye sd Thomas Freeman; and at her request by me to be presented to the Honorble Society of the Colledge of Arms in London, to be there Reposited as a Monument of Antiquity, and for the Common benefitt & use of ye Members of ye said Honorble Colledge, and all other Lovers of their Countrey and ye Antiquitys thereof.

"Which Gift or Present I do hereby accordingly make," &c. "In Witnesse whereof I have hereunto Subscribed my Name this Eleventh day of February," A.D. 1712. "MICH. BURTON."

Some account of the contents of this MS. may be found in Sir Charles G. Young's Catalogue of the Arundel MSS. p. 126—9.

of Parliament, 26 Henry VIII., 1534-5, to have been £219. 18s. 8d. per annum.

The following is a list of twenty Priors of Newstead. It contains two names not mentioned in the Monasticon, and a few variations from that list. I have taken it from the marginal MS. notes of that painful antiquary, Browne Willis, in his copy of Thoroton's Nottinghamshire, p. 262, which I have the happiness of possessing—

EUSTACHIUS, occurs 1215.
ALBRED, about 1230.
ROBERT, elected 1239.
WILLIAM, occurs 1267.
JOHN LEXINGTON, occurs 1280.
RICHARD DE HALAM, elected 1287.
WILLIAM DE THURGARTON, elected 1290.
RICHARD DE GRANGIA, elected 1293.
HUGH DE COLINGHAM, occurs 1350; was succeeded by
JOHN WILLESTHORP, 1357.
WILLIAM ALLERTON, succeeded, 1367.
JOHN HUCKNALL, elected 1406.
WILLIAM BAUKWELL, elected 1415.
THOMAS DE CARLTON, elected 1421.
ROBERT CUTWOLFE, elected 1424.
WILLIAM MISTERTON, elected 1455.
JOHN DURHAM, elected 1461.
THOMAS GUNTHORP, elected 1467, was living 1495; resigned 1504.
WILLIAM SAVAGE, occurs 1507, called Sandal; elected 1504.
JOHN BLAKE, last Prior, surrendered 1540, and had a pension of £16. 13s. 4d., and was living 1553, and enjoyed it: 11 monks surrendered with him, Oct. 3, 1539. He was elected 1526.

A fragment only of the Conventual Seal remains appended to the deed of surrender in the Augmentation Office. St Mary is represented sitting with the infant Christ. Portions of the side of a canopy remain, which has a back ornamented with a reticulated pattern. The bracket upon which the design stands has bold foliage. The only letters of the legend remaining are NOUO . LOCO.

An impression in green wax, in good preservation, of an older seal, is attached to a charter in the British Museum, dated the Saturday next after the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, 40 Hen. III. (A.D. 1255).* It is pointed oval in shape, and has a figure of the Blessed Virgin with our Lord on a cushioned seat. In her right hand she holds up a lily, and from her wrists are seen the long hanging sleeves of the tunic, as worn in the twelfth and

* Cart. Harl. 112. F. 34, William, the fourth Prior in Willis's list, is probably the William de Motesfant named in this charter.

thirteenth centuries, from which the old heraldic maunch takes its form. The legend is + SIGILVM . SANTE . MARIE . NOVI . LOCI . I . SCHI: in English, "The Seal of St. Mary of the New Place (New-stead) in Shirwood." Some of the letters are omitted by the engraver, and the I in MARIE had a narrow escape.

In the Collegiate Church of Southwell are preserved a fine brazen eagle, 6 feet 2 inches in height, and two candlesticks, originally 4 feet 6½ inches in height (to which 10½ inches have apparently been added), used in former times in the Monastic Church of Newstead. I was told at Newstead that they were dragged out of the square pond a few yards east of the High Altar, called in the plans "The Eagle Pond." The eagle is engraved in Shaw's *Dresses and Decorations of the Middle Ages*, Vol. I., whose account of it is worth repeating as rectifying a vulgar error—

"The elegant reading desk at the end of the present article was, about the year 1780, dragged out of the deep part of the lake at Newstead, and is now preserved at Southwell, in Nottinghamshire, having been purchased by Sir Richard Kaye, in 1778, and presented by his widow to the Chapter. It is made of brass, and was sent by them to a clockmaker to be cleaned, who observed that it was composed of several pieces, which might be taken apart. On unscrewing these, the boss was found to contain a number of parchments, most of which were deeds and grants connected with the Abbey of Newstead. Among the rest was a pardon granted by King Henry V. on some occasion to the monks, and, as was common with such documents, worded so generally as to include every offence that was probable that the monks might be accused of having committed, previous to the date at which the pardon was granted. Such deeds were often necessary to protect the monks against the rapacity or malice of their neighbours. Washington Irving, who has described this reading desk in his little volume on "Abbotsford and Newstead Abbey," has entirely misunderstood the nature of this document, and represents it as an indulgence to the monks to commit crimes with impunity. There can be little doubt that this desk, which was used in the Chapel of the Abbey to read the Litany from, was thrown into the lake by the monks, probably at the time when the dissolution of monasteries were first threatened, in the hope that by this means their titles would be preserved until the storm should be blown over; and they never returning to recover it, it remained beneath the water during more than two centuries."

I am indebted to the kindness of the Rev. James F. Dimock, Minor Canon of Southwell, for the following additional remarks:—"It was fished no doubt out of the lake at Newstead, when, I cannot say; but I believe in the 'wicked,' lord's time. It is said

to have been sold by him as old brass: this we can well believe, as he turned every thing into cash that he could lay his hands on. Sir Richard Kaye, one of our Prebendaries (of Northmuskham, from 1783 to 1810), is said to have found it in some curiosity-shop, or such like place, at Nottingham. He himself, not his widow, gave it to Southwell. The Chapter Decree Book contains the following memorandum:—'April 18, 1805. Decreed that the thanks of the Chapter be given to Sir Rich. Kaye, for his offer of a brass eagle, which they will accept, and send for, the first convenient opportunity.' Colonel Wildman, who used to look at it with eyes of extreme envy, and would have rejoiced in getting it back to Newstead, gave me the following account of its discovery. The lake had been drained, and was being cleaned out. Besides the eagle, and the two candlesticks near our altar, the workmen found two very large and heavy chests. Peremptory orders came from the then lord to fill the lake with water at once: he was coming to Newstead with a lot of friends. The chests were therefore left, and nothing done to mark the exact spot where they lay. Soon after Colonel Wildman bought Newstead, the lake was again drained: there were then old people living who remembered the former drainage, and who had helped to bring the eagle and candlesticks to light, and had laboured in vain at the chests. They professed to remember the spot, and were allowed by Colonel Wildman to make a new search. They were at work for days to no purpose, poking in the mud with poles. At length one of them fell head-foremost into the mud, and was suffocated; and Colonel Wildman refused to allow any further attempt to find the chests. There they still lie, full probably of the Abbey plate and other valuables.

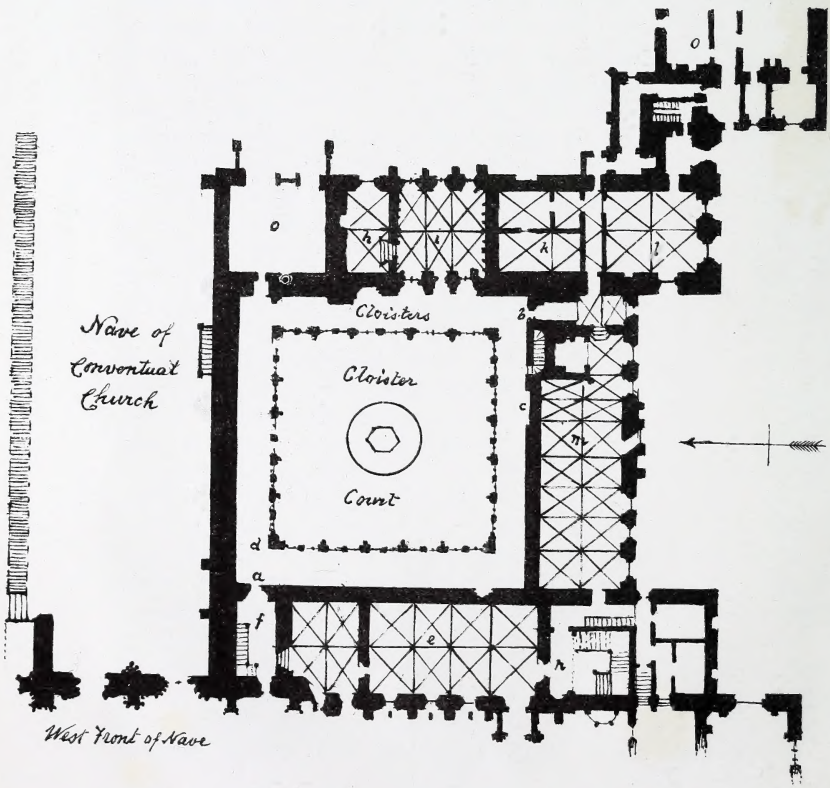
"Colonel Wildman spoke with entire confidence of the candlesticks being found at the same time as the eagle. I know of no other evidence as to this fact. They are not mentioned in the Decree of thanks, or elsewhere in the Chapter documents, so far as I know. Colonel Wildman, no doubt, was right: they have every appearance of having come from the same foundry as the eagle.

"The document found in the ball upon which the eagle stands, upon which Washington Irving founded his good Protestant legend, blackening the character of the poor old monks, proved on examination by a competent reader to be one of the General Pardons which were forced upon the Religious Houses by Henry V., as a means of raising the wind when about to embark for the French wars. It has about as much to do with the man-in-the-moon as with the Pope; and about as much with the morals of the man-in-the-moon's wife (if he has one) as with those of the Newstead monks. It is simply a sample of State dodgery when intent on plundering the Church."

King Henry VIII., by his letters patent, dated May 28, 32 Hen. VIII., granted Newstead Priory (Newstead *Abbey* is a misnomer, and a piece of presumption on the part of its lay impropriators), to Sir John Byron, of Colwick, Knight, descended from the old Derbyshire family of the De Burons, or Birons, of Horseley Castle, near Derby, whose illegitimate son (as appears by Thoroton's pedigree of the family) succeeded him in his estates. The recent editors of Spelman's book on Sacrilege have the following observations in their Introductory Essay:—"It is the more important to dwell on the history of this house, because Tanner brings it forward as one of his proofs that no especial curse attaches itself to sacrilege. We will, as nearly as we can, avail ourselves of Moore's words, in his 'Life of Lord Byron.' Sir (John?) Byron, made a Knight of the Bath by King James I., was deeply involved in debt. His son, the first Lord Byron, died without issue. The second and third barons left each only one surviving son. The fourth baron was thrice married. By his first wife he had no issue; by his second, three sons and one daughter, who all died unmarried; by his third, among other children, Admiral Byron, whose wreck off the coast of Chili, and five years' hardships, attracted public attention. 'Not long after,' says Moore, 'a less innocent sort of notoriety attached itself to two other members of the family, one the grand-uncle of the poet, and the other his father. The former, in the year 1765, stood his trial before the House of Peers for killing in a duel, or rather scuffle, his relation and neighbour, Mr. Chaworth; and the latter, having carried off to the Continent the wife of Lord Caermarthen, on the noble Marquis obtaining a divorce from the lady, married her.' This lady 'having died in 1784, he, in the following year, married Miss Catherine Gordon. It was known to be solely with a view of relieving himself from his debts, that Mr. Byron paid his addresses to her. The creditors lost no time in pressing their demands; and not only was the whole of her ready money, bank shares, fisheries, etc., sacrificed to satisfy them, but a large sum raised by mortgage on the estate for the same purpose.' 'I have been thinking,' says Lord Byron himself, 'of an odd circumstance. My daughter (1), myself (2), my half sister (3), my mother (4), my sister's mother (5), my natural daughter (6), myself (7), are, or were, all *only* children. My sister's mother had only my half-sister by that second marriage (herself, too, an only child), and my father had me, an only child, by his second marriage with my mother, an only child too. Such a complication of only children, all tending to one family, is singular enough, AND LOOKS LIKE FATALITY ALMOST.' We need not remind the reader of the separation of Mr. and Mrs. Byron, and of Lord and Lady Byron, nor of the miserable tenor of the poet's after-life. Newstead no longer belongs to the Byrons; the present baron has six surviving

Cart. Harl. 112.7.34.

Augment^n Office.



Newstead Priory
Nottinghamshire. G.C.B. del.

COWELL'S ANASTATIC PRESS, IPSWICH

children, of whom three are married, whereas Colonel Wildman, the present possessor of Newstead, is without heirs male."

Sir John Byron (alias Halgh), son of the king's grantee, is styled "of Newstead," and probably converted the domestic buildings of the monastery into a residence for himself. The Priory Church would form a quarry close at hand, from which materials could be procured for such alterations as he and his successors might desire. Excepting therefore its west front, which was very ornamental, its south wall of great strength, and two sides of its south transept, now transformed into the Orangery, nothing remains of it which can be traced above ground. The Cloister Court still retains its cloisters of the late perpendicular style, in which may be observed an early English doorway (*d*), which led into the nave of the church near the west end, and the position of the Norman lavatory (*c*) on the south side. Around the Cloister Court were the Conventual buildings. I suppose the present entrance hall and parlor (*e*) to have consisted of various monastic offices, with the dormitory above, which now forms the private and great dining rooms. Where the second staircase now is (*f*) was the entrance to the cloisters. The library is a Byronial addition over the north side of the cloisters. Here windows may have given light to the church. On the east side is the Orangery (*g*), once the south transept of the church; south of which is Lord Byron's bath (*h*), with the "family pew" above it, looking into the present chapel (*i*), which was originally the Chapter House of the Canons. This long narrow room (*h*) was probably the mortuary or "Dead Mane's" Chamber, where the deceased monks were laid immediately after death. Sometimes it was divided, the easternmost portion with an entrance into the church serving as a vestry. The wine cellar (*k*) and private dining room (*l*), completing the east side, and projecting considerably further to the south, appear to have been the undercroft to the Prior's Lodgings as originally designed. The buildings eastward of it were probably a subsequent addition. The servants' hall (*m*) seems to have been the vaulted crypt or undercroft for cellarage beneath the refectory, which always occupied this position, parallel with the church: it is now the great drawing room of the mansion. The buildings (*n*) southwest of the refectory contained perhaps the kitchen, bakehouse, and other domestic offices: those (*o*) southeast of the Prior's Lodgings may have been the Hospitium. Of course there must be some conjecture in thus assigning the various parts of the building to their original purposes, and more learned antiquaries may appropriate some portions differently from what I have stated. Could we but have examined it half a century ago, when in the dilapidated condition in which Lord Byron was obliged to leave it, more of its original character would doubtless have been apparent.

Colonel Wildman's improvements, however, are said to have been carried out as *restorations* as much as possible.

The extraordinary interest with which Newstead is now regarded, is, of course, derived from its connection with the most famous poet of his day. There was a time when I, in common with many of my age, indulged in the fascinating beauty and luxuriousness of Byron's compositions, and imbibed the evil which lay not concealed within them. And when visiting the scenes which called forth from the soul of the bard so much of his immortal verse (as the world would call it), one could not but speculate and philosophize upon that great phenomenon. Here was a man, endowed with untold intellectual power, genius, imagination, talent, taste, living in the very abode of ancient devotion and sanctity, yet himself unhappily taking the opposite direction; ruining, we cannot but fear, himself and others eternally. Are not Byron's poems the miserable snare which has introduced many to courses of profligacy and unbelief? I once accidentally heard a young man enthusiastically affirm, that, in his judgment, "Don Juan" was superior to the Bible! How came this to be? One incident in Byron's life seems to contain the key to it. Passing over his defective early education, we come to what appears to have been the turning point of his life—his unrequited adoration, as we may call it, of the object of his early love. He was then fifteen; she two years older. "She," says Irving, "was at that age when a female soon changes from the girl to the woman, and leaves her boyish lovers far behind her." While his youthful affections were concentrated in her, she became the wife of another. In the anguish of such a moment, in the minds of such as Byron, there are but two objects to choose between for relief. Unhappily he chose the wrong one—the world and its recklessness. And having done so, he became the enemy of the other. Many are they of old time, who, in such moments of (we may say) Providential affliction, have found refuge in such retreats as Byron then possessed the ruins of; many, whom the very sight of such remains of ancient devotion has since calmed, consoled, and led on to their reality. We read of his desecration of the place and its former occupants; how he dug up the ashes of the dead, and insulted what was still tangible of them. Even now this has not quite ceased. Most of the human remains have indeed been reinterred, or put away; the stone coffin of the Prior from before the high altar is no longer filled with rubbish or pugilistic implements; but the "skull-cup" is exhibited. The courteous housekeeper still produces it, with its silver rim and engraved pedestal, as the choicest gem of the mansion. I could not but look upon it with horror and detestation, and state my conviction, that no possessor of the house could prosper until it was again consigned to the earth from which it was formed. Thus "*the things which*" to

Byron "*should have been for his wealth, became unto him an occasion of falling.*" Alas, that there is so little recorded of him which can afford us hope of his repentance.

I have ventured to make this concluding remark, which may seem to some to be beyond the province of the archæologist, from a conviction that if we are never to extend our observations beyond the dry facts of history, architecture, and antiquity—if we are never to draw conclusions, nor confirm religious principles from such studies—if we are to regard works of art and curiosity merely as what they are in themselves, and not as conducive to the glory of the great Artificer of the world and of mankind—then researches such as ours will be found to have been useless, and worse than useless, to us at the last day.

The Rev. R. Burnaby proposed, and Mr. Thompson seconded a vote of the cordial thanks of the Society to Mr. Herrick for his kind and interesting present to the Society of copies of Mr. John Gough Nichols' Paper upon the Armorial Windows, in Woodhouse Chapel.

It was resolved that a special meeting should be called to make arrangements for an evening soirée of the Society to be held shortly in Leicester, and that the annual meeting of the Society for the transaction of business should be held at the close of the year.

August 27th, 1860.

The Rev. S. G. Bellairs in the chair

Mr. Barber exhibited several oriental curiosities.

Mr. James Thompson laid upon the table, and read some remarks upon, a jug and a piece of ancient stained glass. The jug, he said, was lately found in ground on the back premises of Messrs. Sarson and Simpkin, Hotel-street. It was of coarse, light brown earthenware, nearly entire; thirteen inches in height, six and a-half inches wide at its greatest diameter, and five and a-half inches wide at its base. Mr. Thompson further described the vessel as being an English mediæval, one probably of the thirteenth century. The piece of stained glass formerly belonged to, and had a place in, a window at Belgrave Hall, in this county. The subject depicted was from the Book of Esther. It belonged to the Flemish school of probably the seventeeth century.

Mr. Thompson also exhibited the copy of a printed ticket of admission to a ball formerly held in Leicester Castle. It bore the following notice:

A BALL
at the Castle of Leicester, on the
28 day of Nov. 1723,
Thomas Hodgson,
Master.
No admittance after 4 o'clock.

The word "castle" is written and pasted over the engraved words "Town Hall;" so it would seem balls were held in both buildings.

Mr. G. C. Bellairs exhibited a curious watch which formerly belonged to Archbishop Cranmer. The case was beautifully enamelled, representing on the back the Holy Family. This watch is now the property of Mr. R. Bosworth of Leicester.

October 29th, 1860.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair

Sir William de Capel Brooke, Bart., was elected a member of the Society.

The Chairman exhibited an old book of Italian coats of arms, purchased by him at the sale at Nevill Holt in 1848. Henry Nevill, of Nevill Holt, who died in 1728, left three surviving daughters co-heiresses: Mary, the eldest, became the wife of Cormas Migliorucci, a native of Italy, and a Polish Count, from whom the present family is descended.

Mr. Goddard exhibited some mezzotint portraits, and a drawing of the remains of the bishop's palace at Sudbury, Suffolk. Also a small Roman vase of red clay about three inches in height, found last year with two second brass coins, (one of Vespasian), in Luke Street, Leicester. Also a bronze handle of something, the upper part shaped like the bust of a man.

Mr. Nevinson exhibited some counters and tradesmen's tokens: one in the shape of a heart, having on the obverse, 1668, Peter Barriffe of Vppingham in Rutland his Halfpeny. and on the reverse three Pope's crowns; another—obverse an Ovndle Halfpeny, 1669—reverse for the vse of the Poor, and in the field of both sides a talbot.

Mr. North remarked that the token exhibited at a former meeting respecting the inscriptions on which there was some doubt, was one issued at Ashby-de-la-Zouch by Samuel Sowden. Had the

inscriptions been perfect they would have read thus: obverse SAMVELL SNOWDEN IN (St. George and the dragon) reverse ASHBY DE LA ZOVCH, 1667, his halfpenny. This token is included in the list already published by the Society. Mr. North exhibited a token issued at Easton Magna, Leicestershire, which has not been mentioned in any published list; the inscriptions are as follow: obverse EDWARD MOARE (three cloves), reverse IN GREAT Eason, (E.M. in monogram). Also a bronze coin of Vespasian, second brass, struck in commemoration of the subjection of Judea in the first century. It was found several years ago in the Friars, Leicester. The obverse has a laureated head of the Emperor turned to the left with this inscription IMP(erator) CAES(ar) VESPASIAN(us) AVG(ustus) Co(n) S(ul): on the reverse is a palm tree with captives at its base, and the inscription IVDEA CAPTA; below the palm S(enatus) C(onsulto), "by decree of the senate."

Mr. NEALE exhibited a specimen of the Biddenden Cake, and observed that it is composed of two very simple ingredients—flour and water, and in introducing it to the notice of the Society, begged to call it a biscuit plaque. It has two sides, obverse and reverse, as all biscuits have; and is exceedingly hard, as all biscuits should be. The reverse side is plain; the obverse bears the rude representation of two female figures joined together at the hips and shoulders, accompanied with the following particulars:—E. & M. CHULKHURST, A(ged) 34 Y(ears) in 1100, Biddenden. The Biddenden maids, as they are called, lived together in this extraordinary and unnatural state for 34 years, at the expiration of which time one died. The survivor was advised to be separated from her deceased sister, but this she absolutely refused, saying, "as we came together we will also go together; and in the space of about six hours after her sister's decease she was taken ill and died. By their will they bequeathed to the churchwardens of Biddenden, in the county of Kent, and to their successors in that office for ever, certain parcels of land in the said parish, containing twenty acres, more or less, and which is now let for forty guineas per annum. There are usually made in commemoration of these wonderful phenomena, about a thousand rolls, which are given away to all strangers on Easter Day after Divine Service in the afternoon: and also about three hundred quartern loaves, and cheese in proportion, to all the poor inhabitants of the parish. In Hansted's History of Kent similar particulars are given—but according to "a vulgar tradition." Thirty years ago the Siamese Twins were exhibited in this country, united by a fleshy ligament to each other. If this was a real case of *lucus naturæ*, why should the other be recorded as only "a vulgar tradition?" But the object is interesting, being an ancient badge or proof of the existence of a time-honoured and useful charity. The young ladies are not at all flattered in the rude representation; but we find they

had amiable traits in their character. "Lovely and pleasant were they in their lives, and (literally) in death they were not divided."

Mr. NEALE also exhibited a beautifully carved oak box.

The Rev. J. M. GRESLEY exhibited a

STAFFORDSHIRE CLOG ALMANACK,

with the following remarks.

This specimen of an article of household furniture, used by our predecessors, I have the pleasure of exhibiting through the kindness of its owner, Mr. G. T. Lomax, of Lichfield. It is the *Clog Almanac* mentioned in Shaw's *History of Staffordshire*, vol. I., p. 332, as then (1798) in the Museum of Mr. Green, of Lichfield, at the dispersion of whose collection it passed into the hands of Dr. Wright, of that city, from whom Mr. Lomax obtained it. The present is an unpublished specimen: another may be seen engraved in Plot's *Staffordshire*, tab. xxxv., which has been copied in Fosbrooke's *Encyclopædia*, Hone's *Every-day Book*, Brady's *Analysis*, and *Old England:* another is engraved in Gough's edition of *Camden's Britannia :* and wood cuts of two more now at Oxford are in *The Calendar of the Anglican Church Illustrated.* Plot thought them to be of Danish origin, but the specimens remaining are probably not older than the reign of Elizabeth. They were when Plot published his *Staffordshire* (1686), still in use in that county "among the meaner sort of people." He says they had then been scarce heard of in the south of England, and understood but by few of the gentry in the north. Staffordshire seems to have been their chief locality. I have, however, reason to think that one remained hanging at the mantle-piece of a farm house at Barrow-upon-Soar, Leicestershire, about sixty years ago, as I am informed by an aged person now residing in Over Seile, who when young was at service there, in the family of Mr. Bostock. And I myself can testify to a still more recent use of such calendars in this county; for when I was a boy at Appleby school, thirty years ago, one of the first things we did upon going back after the holidays, was to cut upon a strip of wood, or upon the bedstead, a notch for every day, week, and month, of the half year, with some extra peculiarity of mark for the holidays, all of which were carefully cut off as the half year gradually passed away. And what was this but a veritable *Clog Almanack?* The following particulars are taken from Dr. Plot's *History of Staffordshire*, pp. 418-430. First, as to their names. *Cloggs* he thinks to be "from the likeness of some of the greater sorts of them to the cloggs wherewith we usually restrain the wild, extravagant, mischievous motions of some of our doggs." *Rimstocks*, their Danish name, "not only because the Dominical letters were anciently expressed on them in Runick characters, but also for that the word Rimur anciently signified a calendar, whence the word Rimstock (denoting

likewise the matter of which they were commonly made) importes no more than a wooden almanack. *Primestaves*, so called by the Norwegians, because "the principal and most useful thing inscribed on them being the prime or golden number, whence the changes of the moon are understood;" and these being "usually done amongst them (the Norwegians) upon the staves they walk with (whereof there are good patterns in the Museum at Oxford), they most properly, from both the uses they had of them, called them primestaves." *Baculi annales*, the Swedish term, "with which the laics being sustained in their long journeys to church, at their weekly congress did usually debate and conclude from them the lunar conjunctions and oppositions, and thence the moveable feasts." Secondly, the material: some few of brass, but the most of them of wood, and these chiefly of box, others there are of fir, and some of oak, but these not so frequent;" others (in Denmark) of bone, others made of horn. Thirdly, as to the kinds of them: "some *publick*, of a larger size, which hang commonly here at one end of the mantle tree of their chimneys for the use of the whole family; the others *privat*, of a smaller size, which they carry in their pockets; as we have them now since the invention of printing, some almanacks being fitted to hang up in our houses, and others for private use, which we carry about us." Fourthly, the understanding of the figures inscribed upon them. "All follow the Julian form. There are three months contained upon every of the four edges; the number of the days in them are represented by the notches, that which begins each month having a patulous stroke turned up from it, every seventh notch being also of a larger size, which stands for Sunday, or perhaps for A, or any other letters, as they may come in their turn to be either dominical or week-day letters. Over against many of the notches that stand in the clogg for the days of each month, there are placed on the left hand several marks or symbols denoting the golden number, or cycle of the moon, which number, if under 5, is represented by so many points; but if 5, a line is drawn from the notch or day to which it belongs, with a hook turned back against the course of the line; that, if cut off at the distance, may be taken for a V, which being the fifth vowel, antiquity perhaps has been pleased to make use of to represent the number 5, as X for ten, which is nothing else but a composition of two Vs turned tail to tail. If the golden number be above 5, and under 10, it is then marked out to us by the hooked line, which is 5, with one point, which makes 6, or two which makes 7, or three for 8, or four for 9; the said line being crossed with a stroak patulous [broad] at each end, which represents an X when the golden number for the day is 10; points being added (as above over the hook for 5), till the number rises to 15, when a hook is placed again at the end of the line above the X, to show us that number. Above these, the points are added again till the

number amounts to 19, where the line issuing from the day is cross't with two patulous stroaks, (as if it were 20), as may be seen on the clogg, January 5. Why it should be represented by the symbol of 20, when it might have been as easily done by its own, I cannot imagine; unless it may pass for a reason, that our ancestors thought that an even round number did more gracefully set forth or denote the completion of the moon's cycle than an odd number could."

"I proceed next to the inscriptions issuing from the notches to the right hand of them, some of them pointing out the offices or endowments of the saints before whose festivals they are put; others, the manner of their martyrdoms; and others only some eminent action or other matter some way relating to the saint; or else the work or sport in fashion about the time when the feast is kept. Thus, from the notch which represents the 13th of January, or the feast of St. Hilary, there issues *a cross* or badge of a bishop, such as Hilary was; from the 1st of March *a harp*, showing the feast of St. David, who used to praise God on that instrument; against June 29th, *the keys* for St. Peter, reputed janitor of heaven; and *a pair of shooes* against the 25th of October, the feast of St. Crispin, the patron of the shoemakers. Of the second kind are *the axe* set against the 25th of January or feast of St. Paul, who was beheaded with an axe: and *a sword* against the 24th of June for St. John Baptist's day: so *a gridiron* upon the 10th of August or feast of St. Lawrence, who suffered martyrdom upon one: and *a wheel* on the 25th, with *a decussated cross*, on the last day of November, for St. Catherine and St. Andrew, who are said also to have suffered upon such instruments of death. And of the last kind are the marks against the 1st of January for the Circumcision: *the star* on the 6th of the same month, to denote the Epiphany: *a true lover's knot* against the 14th of February for Valentine's Day, importing the time of marriage or coupling of birds: *a bough* against the 2nd of March for St. Ceadda, who lived a hermit's life in the woods near Lichfield: also *a bough* on the 1st of May, such as they usually set up about that time with great solemnity: and *a rake* on the 11th of June, being St. Barnabas' Day, importing that then is hay harvest. So *a pot* against the 23rd of November, for the feast of St. Clement, from the ancient custom of going about that night to beg drink to make merry with: and for the Purification, Annuntiation, and all other feasts of our Lady, always the figure of *a heart*, which what it should import relating to Mary, unless because upon the shepherds' relation of their vision Mary is said to have 'kept all these things and pondered them in her heart,' I cannot imagin: lastly for December 25th, or Christmas Day *a horn*, the ancient vessel in which the Danes use to wassayle, or drink healths, signifying to us that this is the time we ought to rejoice and make merry, *cornua*

exhaurienda notans, as Wormius will have it. Many such symbols there are too for other festivals, which not being so constantly the same as these are, but varying almost upon every clogg, I forbear any further exposition of them: only added that the marks for the greater feasts solemnly observed in the Church, have a large point set in the middle of them, and another over against the preceding day, if vigils or fasts were observed before them."

The specimen now exhibited is of oak; the entire length of the wood is two feet one inch; three inches of which serve for a handle, the edges being there bevelled so as to make it octangular; a ring or suspension passes through it near the top. The lunar marks correspond with those in Plot's engraving; but it is to be remarked that the notch for April 1st is at the foot of the edge for the first three months in the year instead of being at the top of the edge for the second three, at the bottom of which second edge in like manner is placed July 1st, thus arranging 91 days upon the first three edges, and 92 upon the fourth. Instead of a "patulous stroke" turned up for the first day of each month, it has a cross patee, over against the first notch. The maker of it has been sparing of emblems. There are many straight lines cut from the notches on particular days, instead of emblems; *e.g.* St. Agnes, Jan. 21; St. Patrick, Mar. 16; SS. Phillip and James, May 1; St. Barnabas, June, 11; SS. Swithin, Margaret, Mary Magdelene, Anne, July 15, 20, 22, 26; decollation of St. John Baptist, August 29; translation of King Edward the Confessor, October 13; O Sapientia, December 16; and the festivals of the B.V.M., which are without the heart mentioned by Plot. Other variations may be noticed: instead of an axe for St. Paul, January 25, we have here a sword; and *vice versa* for St. John, June 24; instead of the leg for St. Mathias, Feb. 24, a thing like a knife with spikes from it; a single key for St. Peter, June 29, Holy Cross day and Saint Matthew, September 14 and 21, St. Luke, October 18, St. Martin, November 11, St. Nicholas, December 6, and Christmas Day, also differ. The points in the marks of the greater festivals are also omitted in this almanack.

I am not aware of any of these Clog Almanacks having been sold by auction, but as much as fifteen guineas has been offered for the present specimen.

Mr. Gresley also exhibited The Rydeware Cartulary, a MS. compiled, 2 Edward II., by Thomas de Rydeware (Hamstal), Lord of the Manor of Seile, Leicestershire. It contains transcripts of charters relating to that and his other lordships, and has several curious drawings illustrative of the dress, regal, military, and ecclesiastical, of the period. It has probably been in the possession of the Lords of this Manor ever since it was first compiled. Nichols frequently quotes it, and has given an abstract of its contents in his *West Goscote Hundred*, pp. 999-1007.

Mr. Ordish proposed several questions to the meeting respecting the position of organs in churches, the arrangements of seats, especially in the case of churches with transepts, and on the desirableness or otherwise of Western doors.

The following resolution was passed:—That special topics be discussed at the meetings of the Society at the conclusion of the ordinary business; notice of such topics to be given at the meeting immediately previous and the advertisement convening the meeting.

It was also resolved:—That a meeting of the Society be held this year, to consist of a *soirée* and exhibition, with the delivery of lectures. The details of the time, place, and expense, to be left to a sub-committee, consisting of Mr. T. Nevinson, Mr. T. Goddard, Mr. North, Mr. J. Thompson, and the Secretaries.

Upon the Treasurer stating, that probably the funds of the Society would not allow of more being expended this year upon the annual meeting than heretofore, a definite sum was fixed upon by the Committee.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman was unanimously agreed to.

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PREFACE.

A FEW words of explanation may be fitting as a Preface to the following pages.

From the formation of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society, it has been the wish of very many of its members that the Papers read at its meetings should have more than a mere fugitive existence, and that some permanent record should be kept, and from time to time supplied to them, of the Archæological Objects exhibited, and the Architectural Plans or Drawings laid before them.

This it was impossible to do through the agency of the Annual Volume of the Associated Societies, in consequence of the small space necessarily apportioned to each contributing Society.

The plan now proposed by the Committee is to print, under the superintendence of a Publishing Committee, each year a part of a volume of the past Transactions of the Leicestershire Society, such part to contain about a hundred pages, until the whole of the past Transactions are placed in the hands of its members.

This is not in any way to interfere with the issue of the yearly volume of the Associated Societies, with whom, as heretofore, the Leicestershire Society will be in union.

It is hoped that this mode of procedure will meet with the approval and encouragement of the members, into whose hands the publishing Committee have now the pleasure of placing Volume I.

Each writer is responsible for his own Paper.

The first Paper, by the Rev. J. A. Poole, was not delivered before the Leicestershire Society, that Society not being then formed, but on account of its local interest and value, it is here, by permission of the author, reprinted, as an appropriate prelude to the pages that follow.

T. NORTH,

Hon. Sec.

Leicester, January, 1866.

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